

Ash Wednesday begins Lent, the church's 40-day journey of repentance and renewal in preparation for Holy Week. Because it is an important festival, the order of Holy Communion serves as the liturgy. To emphasize the penitential nature of the day we will use the rite for the Imposition of Ashes to begin our service.

Return to the Lord! Ash Wednesday calls us to a forty-day journey of repentance and renewal. The ashes testify: You are mortal; prepare to meet your God!

**Communion** is a part of worship today. Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor or an elder before communing.

**Hymn**

*In Hopelessness and Near Despair Hymn 738:1-2*

1 In hope - less - ness and near de - spair, I  
 2 I see my heart's con - di - tion now, My  
 cry to you, my Sav - ior! My guilt is more than  
 heart's di - verse af - fec - tions. Why do I love the  
 I can bear. I have not earned your fav - or. You  
 things you loathe; I'm torn in two di - rec - tions: Now  
 know me as I real - ly am: How  
 prod - i - gal, now Phar - i - see. O  
 much is truth, how much is sham; Why  
 God, be mer - ci - ful to me; Who  
 should you heed my plead - ing?  
 else but you can help me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: NEWHOPE (87 87 887) G. A. Hennig, b. 1966 © 2006 G. A. Hennig. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**Instructions for the Beginning of Lent**

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us.

**Morrison Zion  
Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod



Our mission is to  
**Glorify God**  
as we  
**Gather**  
around the Gospel  
to help people  
**Grow**  
in the Gospel  
and  
**Go**  
with the Gospel

**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

## **Confession of Sins**

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

**C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C: Have mercy on us Lord.**

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us Lord.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.  
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with you will,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

*Those who desire to make the sign of the cross in ashes on the banner will come forward as directed by an usher. Please maintain social distance during. There are individual cups with ashes for each person on the table. There are wipes and waste baskets for the cups and wipes beyond the banner.*

## **Imposition of Ashes**

*As each person takes the ashes the minister says:*

M: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After all return to their pew, the minister says:*

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

**C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

**C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

## **Absolution**

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit.

May we continue to abide in the true faith and at last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn

## *In Hopelessness and Near Despair* Hymn 738:3,4



3 I trem - ble as I feel your hand, Ex -  
4 For - giv - en, free of guilt and shame, Grant  
pec - ting re - tri - bu - tion, Yet hear no curse or  
me some time to ren - der A gift to glo - ri -  
re - pri - mand, But grace and ab - so - lu - tion: With  
fy your name, Love to re - flect your splen - dor: This  
you there is for - give - ness, Lord, You  
world must know what I have learned, That  
speak the sweet, con - sol - ing Word, And  
you be - stow what none has earned: The  
I am sure you love me!  
joy of full for - give - ness!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: NEWHOPE (87 87 887) G. A. Hennig, b. 1966 © 2006 G. A. Hennig. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

---

## THE WORD

---

### Prayer of the Day

**M:** Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

### First Lesson

God banished him from the Garden

**Genesis 3:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” <sup>23</sup> So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. (New International Version)

## Second Lesson

You have forsaken the love you had at first

**Revelation 2:1-7**

**2** “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup> I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

<sup>4</sup> Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. <sup>6</sup> But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (NIV)

## Verse of the Day

**M:** Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)

*Stand*

## Gospel

He lay down his life for his friends.

**John 15:9-17**

<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other. (NIV)

*Be Seated*

## Hymn

*I Love Your Kingdom, Lord Hymn 533*



1 I love your king - dom, Lord, The place  
 2 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize  
 3 I love your Church, O God, Your saints  
 4 For them my tears shall fall; For them  
 5 Sure as your truth shall last, To Zi -



of your a - bode, The Church our blest Re -  
 its heav'n - ly ways, Its sweet com - mun - ion,  
 in ev - 'ry land, Dear as the ap - ple  
 my prayers as - cend; For them my cares and  
 on shall be giv'n The bright - est glo - ries



deem - er saved With his own pre - cious blood.  
 sol - emn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.  
 of your eye And grav - en on your hand.  
 toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.  
 earth can yield And bright - er bliss of heav'n.

Text: Timothy Dwight, 1752–1817, abr., alt.  
 Tune: St. THOMAS (SM) Aaron Williams, 1731–76.

## Sermon                              Ephesus: Love Lost, Death Found                              Revelation 2:1-7

*Stand*

### Prayer for Ash Wednesday

M: Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts, words, and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.**

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.**

M: In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God's continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

*Time for silent meditation*

M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

**C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

---

## **THE SACRAMENT**

---

### **Proper Preface**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### **Words of Institution**

M: Our Lord Jesus, Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

*Be Seated*

## Distribution

*Glory be to Jesus*

*How Great the Love of Jesus*

Junior Choir 11:00 a.m.

Choir 700 p.m.

Stand

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C: And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Benediction

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

Be Seated

## Hymn

*I Lay My Sins on Jesus* Hymn 372:1

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'I Lay My Sins on Jesus'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and suitable for a choir.

I I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less  
Lamb of God; He bears them all and frees us From  
the ac - curs - ed load. I bring my guilt to Je - sus  
To wash my crim - son stains White in his  
blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt.

Tune: AURELIA (76 76 D) Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76.