

Ash Wednesday

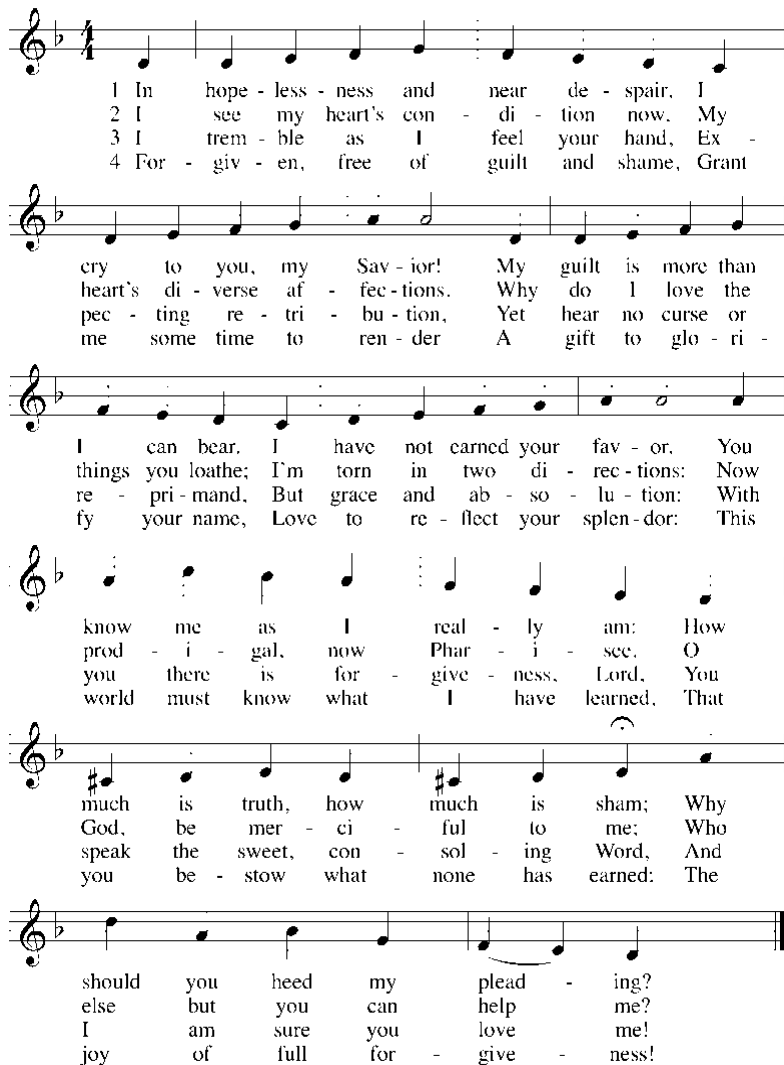
February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday begins Lent, the church's 40-day journey of repentance and renewal in preparation for Holy Week. Because of its unique character and place in the church calendar, we celebrate Ash Wednesday as a separate festival. Because it is an important festival, the order of Holy Communion serves as the liturgy. However, the music of the liturgy is restrained: "Glory Be to God on High," "Alleluia," are omitted.

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 or ELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with an elder or the pastor before communing.

Opening Hymn

In Hopelessness and Near Despair CWS 738



1 In hope - less - ness and near de - spair, I
2 I see my heart's con - di - tion now, My
3 I trem - ble as I feel your hand, Ex -
4 For - giv - en, free of guilt and shame, Grant
cry to you, my Sav - ior! My guilt is more than
heart's di - verse af - fec - tions, Why do I love the
pec - ting re - tri - bu - tion, Yet hear no curse or
me some time to ren - der A gift to glo - ri -
I can bear, I have not earned your fav - or, You
things you loathe; I'm torn in two di - rec - tions: Now
re - pri - mand, But grace and ab - so - lu - tion: With
fy your name, Love to re - flect your splen - dor: This
know me as I real - ly am: How
prod - i - gal, now Phar - i - see, O
you there is for - give - ness, Lord, You
world must know what I have learned, That
much is truth, how much is sham; Why
God, be mer - ci - ful to me; Who
speak the sweet, con - sol - ing Word, And
you be - stow what none has earned: The
should you heed my plead - ing?
else but you can help me?
I am sure you love me!
joy of full for - give - ness!

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod



MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN

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.

Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray; Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

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.

Be seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Numbers 21:4-9

Only sin can turn a gift as gracious as manna into something detestable. Only sin could lead a people to speak against the God who had worked such mighty miracles for them. So God worked another miracle—one meant to cause the people to return to him. The venomous bites of the snakes brought God's people to their knees in

repentance, and God quickly offered pardon and safety with a type of Christ. Notice that the people asked that God remove the snakes, but the snakes stayed. The Lord chastises those he loves. Notice, too, that this is the last complaint of God's people until they entered the Promised Land!

⁴ They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,^[a] to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day We will sing the refrain and read the verses in unison **Psalm 51a**

Refrain



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God,*
according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my iniquity,*
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,*
and my sin is always before me.

Refrain

Against you, you only, have I sinned*
and done what is evil in your sight.

Surely I was sinful at birth,*
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Hide your face from my sins,*
and blot out all my iniquity.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 7:8-13a

God wants us to have godly sorrow over sin that leads to salvation. Godly sorrow brings repentance, not regret. Worldly sorrow leads only to regret that binds and imprisons us in our past sins. Godly sorrow leads to repentance that opens the prison doors and sets us free from the past, free to return to God, free to sin no more.

⁸ Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—⁹ yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹ See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹² So even though I wrote to you, it was neither on account of the one who did the wrong nor on account of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. ¹³ By all this we are encouraged. (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

Luke 18:9-14

The Lenten call to repentance and renewal begins by addressing the sin in man. Sin drives a man to two extremes: pride and despair. The tax collector had to wear his sin in society like a scarlet letter. The Pharisee hid his guilt beneath a veneer of righteousness. Which man has more to teach us? We have a such high opinion of our own righteousness! We may fool our friends; we may even fool our family. But the ashes on our head remind us that we will meet God, and he is not fooled by our shined-up exterior. He can see the depravity and decay within. The man who understands this beats his breast and cries, *Kyrie eleison!* That man returns to the Lord and finds justification in Christ, pardon from his forgiving God, and real righteousness.

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

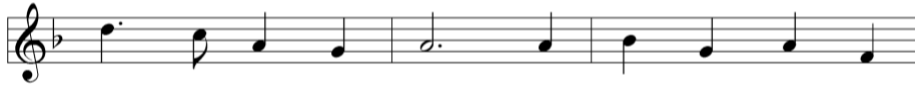
Be Seated

Hymn of the Day

In Adam We Have All Been One CW 396



1 In Ad - am we have all been one, One
 2 We fled our God, and los - ing him, We
 3 But your strong love, it sought us still And
 4 O Sav - ior, when we loved you not, You
 5 Send us your Spir - it; teach us truth To



huge re - bel - lious man; We all have fled that
 lost our broth - er too. Each sin - gly sought and
 sent your on - ly Son That we might hear his
 loved and saved us all; O great good Shep - herd
 purge our van - i - ty. From fan - cied wis - dom,



eve - ning voice That sought us as we ran.
 claimed his own; Each man his broth - er slew.
 shep - herd - voice And, hear - ing him, be one.
 of man - kind, Oh, hear us when we call.
 self - sought ways, O Sav - ior, set us free.

6 Then shall our song united rise
 To your eternal throne,
 Where with the Father evermore
 And Spirit you are one.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76, alt. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
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Tune: ADAM (CM) Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–93. © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Sermon

Grow In Godly Sorrow

2 Corinthians 7:8-13a

Stand



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

Be seated

Offering

Instructions for the Beginning of Lent

Psalm 130

(read in unison)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

O Lord, hear my voice.

**Let your ears be attentive
 to my cry for mercy.**

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

**But with you there is forgiveness;
 therefore you are feared.**

I wait for the Lord and in his Word I put my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

M: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all people, and to live in harmony with his creation. But sin separates us from God, mars our relationship with one another, and brings ruin to God's good creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Moreover, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from loving God and our neighbor. Repentance, self-denial, prayer, and works of love – the disciplines of Lent – help us wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves anew to this struggle, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Stand

Responsive 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 follows.

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.

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

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

O Christ, Lamb of God



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

Forgiveness Is a Miracle of Love

Just as I Am

Junior Choir 11:00 a.m.

Choir 7:00 p.m.

Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness CW 376



1 Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day— Who can a
3 Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve were sin - ners more Than sands up -
5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my



are, my glo - rious dress; Mid flam - ing worlds, in
word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly through you ab -
ver - y throne of God For - ev - er will for
on the o - cean shore, You have for all a
man - sion in the skies, E'en then this shall be



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
solved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
sin - ners plead, For me—e'en for my soul—was shed.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.
all my plea: Je - sus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
Your boundless mercy has for me,
For me and all your hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, abr.; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.
Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

THANKSGIVING

Stand

Song of Simeon



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre -

pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

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

Closing Hymn

Blessed Are They, Forever Blest CW 383:1,4



1 Bless - ed are they, for - ev - er blest,
4 How glo - rious is that right - eous - ness



Whose guilt is par - doned by their God,
That hides and can - cels all their sins,



Whose sins with sor - row are con - fessed
While bright the ev - i - dence of grace



And cov - ered with their Sav - ior's blood,
Through all their lives ap - pears and shines!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT (LM) *Andächtige Haus-Kirche*, Nürnberg, 1676, alt.