



OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Welcome To Lent

Today is Ash Wednesday and it marks the beginning of Lent, the somber and serious season of the Church Year. Today we begin a 40-day journey to Jesus' cross and empty tomb as we reflect on the great and painful price Jesus willingly paid for our sins and the sins of the whole world. Though black is the color for Ash Wednesday, the color for the season of Lent is purple signifying repentance for our sins. Repentance includes both a true sorrow and regret for our sins and a confident trust that God grants his people full and free forgiveness for the sake of Jesus.

The Imposition of Ashes

Today's Ash Wednesday service will include the voluntary imposition of ashes as an outward sign of the inner sorrow in our hearts over our sins. Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes may come forward at the direction of the ushers. Walk down the center aisle, forming two lines as you proceed to the front. Baptized children may come forward at their parents' discretion. The ministers will apply ashes either to the forehead or the back of the hand in the form of a small cross. If you prefer the hand, extend it as you approach the minister. After the ashes are applied, return to your seat by walking down the side aisles. During the imposition of ashes, worshippers are encouraged to meditate on the hymns for Lent (pages 393-410) and Jesus' passion (419-437) in the Christian Worship hymnals.

Holy Communion

We will celebrate Holy Communion for the personal assurance from the Lord of his forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Because participation in the Sacrament expresses unity with our Savior and one another through a common faith and stand on God's Word, we invite and welcome to partake all who are united with us as members of our church or another church that is part of our wider fellowship in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. To prepare yourself for the Sacrament, please consider pages 293 as well as 295-296 in the hymnals.

Serving In Worship

Minister: Pastor Jeff Mahnke

Organist: Marie Kurth

Usher: Robert Gresens

ASH WEDNESDAY

(The First Day of Lent)

February 14, 2024

Today's Worship Emphasis: Our Greatest Need: A Humbled Heart

WORDS OF WELCOME

Please stand – speak responsively the words in bold print

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in fellowship with him, to love all people, 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. 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 forty days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer 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.

Let us confess our sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit ourselves to this struggle.

CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful Father,

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.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have placed our wants before your will.

We have gratified the desires of our sinful nature.

We have merited your punishment now and forever.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

we confess to you, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people, our anger when our selfish aims are denied, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

we confess to you, O Lord.

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

our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us

we confess to you, O Lord.

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

forgive us, Lord.

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

forgive us, Lord.

For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,
forgive us, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

As the cross is applied, the minister will say:

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

HYMN

CW 814 sts. 1, 3, 6
Just As I Am



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a
6 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken



blood was shed for me and that thou bidd'st me come to
con - flict, man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
ev - 'ry bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea thine a -



thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

ABSOLUTION

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. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Thanks be to God!

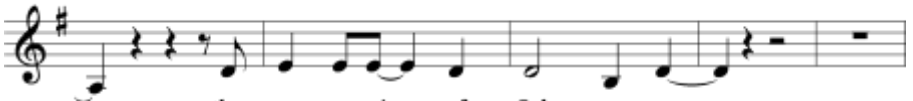
HYMN: Our Savior's School Students

CW 615

This hymn will be sung by the congregation each week in future Lenten services, so feel free to hum along today!



1 The mys - t'ry of the cross I can - not com - pre - hend,
2 By your per - fect sac - ri - fice I've been brought near.



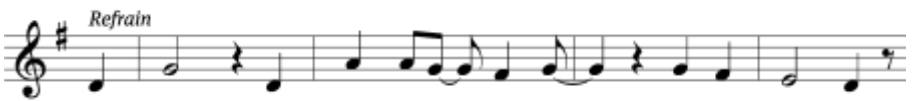
the ag - o - nies of Cal - va - ry.
Your en - e - my you've made your friend.



You, the per - fect Ho - ly One, crushed your Son, who
Pour - ing out the rich - es of your glo - rious grace, your



drank the bit - ter cup re - served for me.
mer - cy and your kind - ness know no end.



Your blood has washed a - way my sin; Je - sus, thank you.



The Fa - ther's wrath com - plete - ly sat - is - fied;
 Je - sus, thank you. Once your en - e - my, now
 seat - ed at your ta - ble; Je - sus, thank you.

Text and tune: © 2003 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, admin. IntegratedRights.com.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 12:13-21

Jesus tells a parable about a man who forgot we are all turning back into dust

¹³Someone from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴But Jesus said to him, "Man, who appointed me to be a judge or an arbitrator over you?"

¹⁵Then he said to them, "Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because a man's life is not measured by how many possessions he has." ¹⁶He told them a parable: "The land of a certain rich man produced very well. ¹⁷He was thinking to himself, 'What will I do, because I do not have anywhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸He said, 'This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and goods. ¹⁹And I will tell my soul, "Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry.'"

²⁰"But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared?' ²¹"That is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

HYMN OF THE DAY

CW 395

- 1 What grace is this! My Lord and King
 has set his face to suffering.
 My God eternal dies to bring
 eternal life to me.

- 2 What grace is this—that very God
would stoop to lift a cross of wood
and walk a road of rock and blood,
a sinner’s road, for me.

- 3 What grace is this! Though Lord of all,
he yields to Pontius Pilate’s law
and lets the Roman hammers draw
a rush of blood for me.

- 4 What grace is this! Rude agonies!
With common thieves he hangs and bleeds.
The sinless Son bears each misdeed;
he pays for all, for me.

- 5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths
and gently laid in manger-trough,
he’s taken, dead, from wretched cross
and wrapped again for me.

- 6 What grace is this? How can it be?
He wears this raw humility
to lift me to eternity.
Such grace—sweet grace—for me.

Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965

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ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

1st John 4:10,11

¹⁰This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us
and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹Dear friends, if God loved us so much,
we also should love one another.

OFFERING & FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

Members of Our Savior's give generous and free will gifts to honor the Lord and support our ministry of the gospel. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.

As the offering is gathered, please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed down the pew.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. In your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who was crucified for our sins and raised for our justification.

Preserve the proclamation of his cross among us, and guard your Church from every false teaching that might delight our desires but leave us lost in our iniquity.

Look graciously on your Church, and preserve the Gospel among us.

Renew us in this penitential season to strive against the desires of the flesh and to grow in the joy of your salvation.

Grant us repentance at the Lord's table. Let us recognize the enormity of our sins by the measure of Your abundant pardon by the sacrifice of Christ, our Savior.

Grant us faith to eat and drink his true body and blood worthily and to learn from him to love and serve our neighbor.

Bless us, heavenly Father, on this holy day of repentance. As we enter the season of Lent, let us hold fast to your Word.

Teach us to die to self and serve you faithfully throughout this mortal life, until at last you bring us with the blessed saints into your presence forevermore.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CW 396

Christ, the Life of all the Living

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
who, thyself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through thy sufferings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
dearest Jesus, unto thee.

- 2 Thou, ah! Thou hast taken on thee
bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
pain and scorn were heaped upon thee,
O thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst thou my soul deliver
from the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
dearest Jesus, unto thee.

- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
that my wounds might all be whole;
thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
rest to give my weary soul;
yea, the curse of God enduring,
blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
dearest Jesus, unto thee.
- 4 Heartless scoffers did surround thee,
treating thee with cruel scorn,
and with piercing thorns they crowned thee.
All disgrace thou, Lord, hast borne
that as thine thou mightest own me
and with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
dearest Jesus, unto thee.
- 5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise thee
that from pain I might be free;
falsely did thy foes accuse thee:
thence I gain security.
Comfortless thy soul did languish
me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
dearest Jesus, unto thee.
- 6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
and hast borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,
fully to atone for me.
Thou didst choose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
dearest Jesus, unto thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
 for thy sorrows deep and sore,
 for thine anguish in the garden,
 I will thank thee evermore,
 thank thee for thy groaning, sighing,
 for thy bleeding and thy dying,
 for that last triumphant cry
 and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

Text: Ernst C. Homburg, 1605–1681, abr.; (sts. 1–2, 5, 7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 3–4, 6): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, alt. Text: Public domain

CLOSING PRAYER

God, our Father, by the sacrifice of your Son you reconciled the world to yourself. We thank you for the precious gift of forgiveness sealed to us personally through this heavenly meal. Refresh us with the joy of our salvation. Renew our hearts and minds this season of Lent that daily we may walk in the way of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

CW 784



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
 2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way all that I've done wrong to - day.
 5 Ah, my best and kind - est Friend, you will love me to the end.



ask - ing you to watch and keep and to send me qui - et sleep.
 Make me ev - er more like you, good and gen - tle, kind and true.
 Let me love you more and more, al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt. Tune: Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen, Kaiserswerth, 1842 Text and tune: Public domain



“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now on Your Holy Passion”

We have five more special Lent services on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm leading up to Holy Week. We will follow St. Matthew’s account of Jesus’ suffering and are planning to use “The Visual Bible” once again this season of Lent. “God on Trial” will be the unifying theme of the meditational messages delivered by area WELS pastors. The services will last about 40-45 minutes, and we encourage all our members to make a special effort to attend them. May the Lord bless our solemn journey all the way to our Savior’s cross and then his empty tomb on Easter Sunday.

- Midweek Lent #2, Wednesday, February 21
Vicar John Wenzel “God on Trial: Sympathy.”
- Midweek Lent #3, Wednesday, February 28th:
Pastor Ryan Cortright (Redeemer, Weston, & Grace, Ringle)
“God on Trial: Misconceptions.”
- Midweek Lent #4, Wednesday, March 6th:
Pastor Andy Buschkopf (Mountain of the Lord, Rib Mountain)
“God on Trial: Testimony.”
- Midweek Lent #5, Wednesday, March 13th:
Pastor Andy Ewald (Immanuel, Mosinee) “God on Trial: Truth.”
- Midweek Lent #6, Wednesday, March 20th:
Pastor Ben Phelps (St. Matthew, Marathon)
“God on Trial: Restraint.”



Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love

Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church

703 Flieth St, Wausau WI 54401

715-845-3253

Email: OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org

Website: www.oursaviorswausau.org

Facebook: Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School

Pastor Jeff Mahnke, Vacancy Pastor

715-297-0132

pastorm@mysaintpeter.org

