

# Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church     Hermiston, Oregon

**Imposition of Ashes**     *upon entry into the sanctuary*

## Address

**P:** Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn #419 "Savior, When in Dust to Thee"

Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the\_adoring knee;  
When, repentant, to the skies  
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
O, by all Thy pains and woe  
Suffered once for us below,  
Bending from Thy throne on high,  
Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears,  
By Thy days of deep distress  
In the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour  
Of the\_insulting tempter's pow'r,  
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye;  
Hear our penitential cry!

By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine agony of prayer,  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies  
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,  
Listen to our humble sigh;  
Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode  
Held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav'n restored,  
Mighty, reascended Lord,  
Bending from Thy throne on high,  
Hear our penitential cry!

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## Entrance Psalm

Psalm 130

**P:** O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption.

**C:** **Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD; O Lord, hear my voice.**

**Men:** Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

**Women:** If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**All:** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P:** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope.

**Men:** My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,

**Women:** more than watchmen wait for the morning.

**P:** O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption.

**C:** **He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

## Collect for Ash Wednesday

**P:** Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## Call to Repentance

Joel 2:12-19

**P:** 'Even now,' declares the LORD, 'return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity.'

**C:** **Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing —**

**P:** Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say,

**C:** **'Spare your people, O LORD. Do not make Your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?''**

**P:** Then the LORD will be jealous for His land and take pity on His people. The LORD will reply to them: 'I am sending you grain, new wine and oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.'

## Silence to Consider our Obedience to the LORD

### Promise of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:8-13

**P:** The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is His love for those who fear Him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

**C:** **As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him;**

## Absolution

**P:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Holy Scriptures

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B — 6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>24</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>1</sup>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

MATTHEW 6:1–6, 16–21

[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

<sup>16</sup>“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

<sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn #607 “From Depths of Woe I Cry To Thee”

From depths of woe I cry to Thee,  
In trial and tribulation;  
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,  
Lord, hear my supplication.  
If Thou rememb’rest ev’ry sin,  
Who then could heaven ever win  
Or stand before Thy presence?

Thy love and grace alone avail  
To blot out my transgression;  
The best and holiest deeds must fail  
To break sin's dread oppression.  
Before Thee none can boasting stand,  
But all must fear Thy strict demand  
And live alone by mercy.

Therefore my hope is in the Lord  
And not in mine own merit;  
It rests upon His faithful Word  
To them of contrite spirit  
That He is merciful and just;  
This is my comfort and my trust.  
His help I wait with patience.

And though it tarry through the night  
And till the morning waken,  
My heart shall never doubt His might  
Nor count itself forsaken.  
O Israel, trust in God your Lord.  
Born of the Spirit and the Word,  
Now wait for His appearing.

Though great our sins, yet greater still  
Is God's abundant favor;  
His hand of mercy never will  
Abandon us, nor waver.  
Our shepherd good and true is He,  
Who will at last His Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow.

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## Message

## Offering

### The Litany for Ash Wednesday

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| P: O Lord,                             | C: have mercy.          |
| P: O Christ,                           | C: have mercy.          |
| P: O Lord,                             | C: have mercy.          |
| P: O Christ,                           | C: hear us.             |
| P: God the Father in heaven,           | C: have mercy.          |
| P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world, | C: have mercy.          |
| P: God the Holy Spirit,                | C: have mercy.          |
| P: Be gracious to us.                  | C: Spare us, good Lord. |
| P: Be gracious to us.                  | C: Help us, good Lord.  |

**P:** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C: Help us, good Lord.**

**P:** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**C: Help us, good Lord.**

**P:** We poor sinners implore You

**C: to hear us, O Lord.**

**P:** To prosper the teaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

**C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P:** To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayer; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

**C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P:** To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P:** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C: we implore You to hear us.**

**P:** Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

**C: have mercy.**

**P:** Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

**C: have mercy.**

**P:** Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

**C: grant us Your peace.**

**P:** O Christ,

**C: hear us.**

**P:** O Lord,

**C: have mercy.**

**P:** O Christ,

**C: have mercy.**

**P:** O Lord,

**C: have mercy. Amen.**

**P:** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

## Dismissal

Luke 2:29-32

**P:** The Body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith to life everlasting.

**C:** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen the salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.

## Blessing

Jude 24-25

**P:** To Him Who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy —

**C:** to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

**P:** The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**C:** Amen

## Hymn #878 "Abide with Me"

*final verse will be sung a capella*

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.  
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

And when at last You come again to save,  
Raise us to life and bring us from the grave!  
And then with all Your people, strong and free  
I shall rejoice, for You abide with me.

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