

Offering & Offering Prayer

P: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

* The Lord's Prayer

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.

Pastoral Blessing

HYMN

"Savior In Dust to You"

#91

Prediction of the Passion

P: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem...

And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, who will condemn him to death...

And they will hand him over to the Gentiles who will mock him and scourge him, and finally, they will crucify him...

But on the third day, he will rise.

(The congregation exits in silence)

The Imposition of Ashes

Throughout the history of God's people, ashes have always been symbolic of God's condemnation of sin, and of human guilt and repentance. Biblically, ashes are also a sign of our mortality. As we are reminded in our funeral liturgy, we shall all return to the earth from which we were made. "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust..."

WEST PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

40041 150th Ave

Leland, Iowa



Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023

Mission: To proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to all through worship, education, outreach, and fellowship.

Please be advised, the service is livestreamed and posted on the internet.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the forty-day season of Lent. Its name is taken from the ancient biblical tradition of using ashes as a sign of repentance and human mortality. We come together tonight in humble and honest reflection on our own sinfulness, trusting in the forgiveness of our merciful Lord and in the promise that he has won for us in the cross.

Prelude

*(please stand when indicated by *)*

Opening Reading: Psalm 51: 1-19

Let us pray the Psalm

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ²Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. ⁵Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. ⁷Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. ¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. ¹⁴Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. ¹⁵Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. ¹⁸May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar. Amen.

Welcome

* Gospel Verse

p. 63

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

*The Holy Gospel

Matthew 6: 12-15

¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ¹⁴For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

*Sermon

Pastor Tony

HYMN

"Jesus, In thy Dying Woes"

#112 vs 1-3

*The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Prayers of the Church

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

* Call to Worship:

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

C: **Glory 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**

P: Brothers and sisters, our Lord Jesus said: "If any would come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34)

C: **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.** (Psalm 23:4)

P: Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus — the pioneer and perfecter of our faith — who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

C: **Lord, we believe; help us in our unbelief.** (Mark 9:24)

HYMN

"In The Hour of Trial"

#106

Prayers of Confession and Repentance:

P: Let us draw near to God with an honest heart, confessing our sins to God the Father, and appealing to him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

(silence is observed for reflection and self-examination.)

P: Almighty God,

C: **We confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

P: We have received your many blessings with a lack of gratitude; and have failed to be good stewards of your Creation.

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

P: We have followed our own selfish will and ways, and have failed to be your trusting and obedient servants.

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

P: We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven, and have failed to be your witnesses in the world.

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

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our unfaithfulness — our fear, our anger, our pride, and our trust in our own righteousness.

C: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

* Call to Worship:

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C: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

P: We confess to you, Lord, our lack of concern for the needs of others, and our sense of entitlement to all we possess.

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, our negligence in worship, and our rejection of your Word in our lives.

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

C: Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Give us the joy of your saving help again, and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.

The Imposition of Ashes

P: As children of a fallen humanity, each of us shares in the consequences of human sin. In the words that the Lord first spoke to Adam, he now reminds us all: "By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)

Therefore, face-to-face, in the presence of God, we offer our confession in the spirit of our ancestor Job, who prayed:

C: I had heard you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I repent in dust and ashes. (Job 42:5-6)

P: As a sign of repentance, I now ask those who wish to do so, to come forward to receive the mark of the cross in ashes upon their brow.

(To each: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.")

The Promise of Christ:

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

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

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

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

P: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. By his Holy Spirit, may he grant you true repentance, that you may live with him in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: We confess to you, Lord, our lack of concern for the needs of others, and our sense of entitlement to all we possess.

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

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C: Amen.