

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 10th, 2016

OPENING HYMN: #98 Jesus I Will Ponder Now

INSTRUCTION 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. 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

PLEASE STAND

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 neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

OFFERING

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 and desires, 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.

The service continues on page 33 with the sacrament.

COMMUNION HYMN: #109 When O'er My Sins I Sorrow

(sung after O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD)

Holy Communion: In Holy Communion we are receiving Jesus' true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, new life, and salvation. But that's not all. We also receive strength, encouragement, and comfort knowing that in this sacrament **we are at one with our God** through Jesus' death on the cross for our sins, **we are one in faith with those communing beside us**, and **we are joined with all the saints**, who share our common faith. For this reason we practice **close communion**, inviting only members of this church and our church body to partake of the sacrament so as not to call into question the communion that we share. **If you are a visitor, please speak to Pastor Seelow before communing.**

THANKSGIVING HYMN: #114 v.1-2 Christ, the Life of All the Living

(Sung in place of THANK THE LORD on page 36)

CLOSING HYMN: #304 v. 6-7 Jesus Sinners Does Receive



Midweek Lent Rotation Schedule

Ironies of the Passion

Midweek 2

Luke 18:9-14 This man went home justified — Pastor Raddatz

Midweek 3

Matthew 26:1-5 Not during the festival — Pastor Sonntag

Midweek 4

John 19:12-16a We have no king but Caesar — Pastor Seelow

Midweek 5

Luke 23:6-12 He had been wanting to see Jesus — Pastor Raddatz

Midweek 6

Luke 23:39-43 Don't you fear God? — Pastor Sonntag

All services begin at 6:30pm.

Shepherd of the Lakes

Ev. Lutheran Church

241 E. Federal Highway, Roscommon, MI 48653



ASH

WEDNESDAY

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

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 your 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.

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 the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN: #102 Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains

The First Reading: 2 Samuel 24:10-25

In sinful pride and arrogance, David took a census of his fighting men. Could you imagine God making you choose your punishment for sin? Given three forms of punishment, David chooses a three-day plague on Israel. Brought to his knees in repentance, David seeks the mercy of the Lord and finds it.

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 51a on page 86 in your Hymnal

The Second Reading: Revelation 3:14-22

For the modern Christian, the Lord's indictment of the Laodiceans hits home. Neither hot nor cold, so often we go through the motions of the Christian life: lukewarm. Yet our Savior still stands at the door and knocks, waiting for our repentance.

The Verse of the Day

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

The Gospel Reading: Luke 18:9-14

This parable of Jesus reminds us of the urgent need for us to come to the Savior in the true repentance that brings a sure verdict of "not guilty."

HYMN: #110 My Song Is Love Unknown

SERMON John 11:45-53

It's better that one man die for the people

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