

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

10:30 a.m.



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About the service

The mood of Ash Wednesday is solemn because it begins the 40 days of Lent, the season during which the Church remembers the passion and death of Jesus. During these 40 days, Christians examine their lives and repent of the sin that sent the Savior to the cross.

Ash Wednesday worship may begin with the imposition of ashes, a solemn symbol that has deep roots and wide precedent in both the Old and New Testaments. Ashes symbolize human mortality and the deserved destruction of all who sin. Like Job, believers of many ages repent in “dust and ashes.” The symbol emphasizes the seriousness of sin.

The practice of imposing ashes on Ash Wednesday is experiencing renewed appreciation among some WELS congregations. With this in mind, the service provides worshipers an opportunity to experience this custom.

Receiving ashes is not mandatory. The ministers apply ashes on the forehead, imposed in the sign of the cross, with the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Worshipers then return to their pews. The ashes may be removed after the service is completed.

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Order of Service

NO PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

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 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 also reminds us that, as disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

God invites you to draw near with a true heart and confess your sins to him, asking him to forgive you for the sake of Jesus. He also promises to hear your pray that the power of his free forgiveness would help you in your individual struggle against sin.

STAND

GATHERING RITE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

“Remember You Are Dust”

-Paul A. Tate

Choir: Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.
Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return.

Congregation:

Turn a-way from sin and be faith - ful to the Gos - pel. Re -
mem-ber you are dust, and to dust you will re - turn.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The melody is simple and uses mostly quarter and eighth notes.

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION – LORD, HAVE MERCY – ABSOLUTION

Choir: Repent, the kingdom is at hand.

Congregation: Repent, the kingdom is at hand. (*sing in imitation*)

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Choir: Repent, the kingdom is at hand.

Congregation: Repent, the kingdom is at hand. (*sing in imitation*)

Choir: Seek the God of compassion. Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. (*sing in imitation*)

Choir: Trust in God and be faithful. Christ, have mercy.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy. (*sing in imitation*)

Choir: Praise the God of salvation. Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. (*sing in imitation*)

M: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

Choir: For thy gracious blessing we give thanks, O Lord.
For thy loving kindness we give thanks, O Lord.

Congregation:

Turn a-way from sin and be faith - ful to the Gos - pel. Re -
mem-ber you are dust, and to dust you will re - turn.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made

C: and always forgive those who turn to you.

M: Create in us such new and contrite hearts

C: that we may truly repent.

M: Create in us such new and contrite hearts

C: that we may obtain your full and gracious pardon;

M: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

C: Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

M: one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those desiring to receive ashes should come forward at the direction of the ushers. The ministers will apply ashes on the forehead, imposed in the sign of the cross, with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Worshipers then return to their pews. The ashes may be removed after the service is completed.

As the imposition of ashes takes place, the congregation joins in singing "Sign Us with Ashes"

Silence for meditation

Sign Us with Ashes

-Mary Louise Bringle / William P. Rowan

REFRAIN: Choir

Sign us with ashes, merciful God, children of dust, as to dust we return.
Sign us with ashes, merciful God; mark us and make us your own.

Choir: Surely, you alone can save us. You pay our price with precious blood.
Reaching through your great compassion, you lift up your people with love.

REFRAIN: Congregation

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of dust, as to
dust we re - turn. Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God;
mark us and make us your own.

Surely, you alone uphold us. You give us strength for all our needs.
Shielding with a father's favor, you bless us with pardon and peace.

REFRAIN: Congregation

Surely, you alone can heal us. Yours is the will to make us whole.
Soothing with a mother's kindness, the contrite of heart, you console.

REFRAIN: Congregation

Surely, you alone can free us. You break the bonds of guilt and sin.
Bracing, till we walk uprightly, you bolster our hope once again.

REFRAIN: Congregation

Surely, you alone refine us. You give us grace for lives made new,
forging, through your fire and radiance, a sacrifice worthy for you.

REFRAIN: Congregation

Surely, you alone redeem us. You fill our dust with holy breath.
Bursting from the grave in glory, you rise from the ashes of death.

REFRAIN: Congregation

Out of the Depths

- from Psalm 130

Daniel Nelson

Out of the depths I cry to thee. O Lord, hear my voice!
If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love.

And with him is plenteous redemption.
And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Out of the depths I cry to thee. O Lord, hear my voice!

Silence for meditation

PRAYER

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

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

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

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

EXHORTATION

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather than they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, during these days of Lent we implore him to give us renewal by 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.

LESSON

Isaiah 59:12-20

PSALM 51

-read together

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against 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.
Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.
Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

PSALM 103

- M: The Lord works righteousness
C: **and justice for all the oppressed.**
- M: He made known his ways to Moses,
C: **his deeds to the people of Israel:**
- M: The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
C: **slow to anger, abounding in love.**
- M: He will not always accuse,
C: **nor will he harbor his anger forever;**
- M: He does not treat us as our sins deserve
C: **or repay us according to our iniquities.**
- M: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
C: **so great is his love for those who fear him;**
- M: As far as the east is from the west,
C: **so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**
- M: As a father has compassion on his children,
C: **so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;**
- M: for he knows how we are formed,
C: **he remembers that we are dust.**
- M: As for man, his days are like grass,
C: **he flourishes like a flower in the field;**
- M: the wind blows over it and it is gone,
C: **and its place remembers it no more.**

LESSON

Luke 18:9-14

HYMN OF THE DAY

In Hopelessness and Near Despair
CWS 738

The congregation sings stanzas 1 and 4; the choir sings stanzas 2 and 3

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
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,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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 also 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 his incomprehensible love.

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.

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

C: **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

M: The Lord be with you.



C: **And al - so with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: **We lift them up un - to the Lord.**

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



C: **It is good and right so to do.**

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

Sanctus

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.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

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.

DISTRIBUTION

Approach the altar at the usher's direction. Extend your hand to receive the wafer. Guide the cup with your hand or use the individual cups to receive the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available in the middle aisle.

“Come to Me, All You Who Labor”

Kevin Uppercue

Come to me and I will give you rest.
Come to me all you who labor and I will give you rest.
Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.
Learn from me and you will find rest for your soul.
Come to me and I will give you rest.

During distribution, the congregation may sing the following hymns:

Take and Eat

CWS 741

In the Midst of Earthly Life

CW 534

THANKSGIVING

O LORD, WE PRAISE YOU

CW 317:1

I O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and a-dore you,
In thanks-giv-ing bow be-fore you. Here with your
bod-y and your blood you nour-ish Our weak souls that they may
flour-ish. O Lord, have mer-cy! May your
bod-y, Lord, born of Mar-y, That our sins and sor-rows
did car-ry, And your blood for us plead
In all tri-al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer-cy!

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we are dust and to dust we shall return, yet even in ashes and dust there is hope. Marked with the sign of the cross in our Baptism, we thank you for the gifts you have given us through this Holy Supper; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



CLOSING HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Your Image CW 319

On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus,
King of grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Have no
pow'r to hide your face. This the su - per - scrip - tion be:
Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my life, my
hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

Service Participants

Presiding Minister

John C. Boeder
Campus Pastor, Martin Luther College

Organist

Craig Hirschmann
Professor, Martin Luther College

Choir Directors

Adrian Smith
Professor of Music, Martin Luther College

Jon Laabs
Professor of Music, Martin Luther College

Accompanists

Michael Wilde, *piano*
Elsie Koutia, *flute*
Karissa Nolte, *organ*
Emily Schmidt, Rachel Winter, *oboe*
Jacob Melso, *organ*
Hope Loersch, *cello*
Noah Melso, *organ*
Allison Boggs, *piano*

Acknowledgements

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