



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-18

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses. ²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb. ⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within. ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be pur-er than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be re-stored to you. ¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness. ¹⁵O Lord, o-pen my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise. ¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise. ¹⁸Favor Zion with your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem.

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness;* in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

ALL: Wash me through and through from my wickedness,* and cleanse me from my sin.

Pastor: For I know my transgressions,* and my sin is ever before me.

ALL: Against you only have I sinned* and done what is evil in your sight.

Pastor: And so you are justified when you speak* and upright in your judgment.

ALL: Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,* a sinner from my mother's womb.

Pastor: For behold, you look for truth deep within me,* and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

ALL: Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;* wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Pastor: Make me hear of joy and gladness,* that the body you have broken may rejoice.

ALL: Hide your face from my sins,* and blot out all my iniquities.

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,* and renew a right spirit within me.

ALL: Cast me not away from your presence,* and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Pastor: Give me the joy of your saving help again* and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

ALL: I shall teach your ways to the wicked,* and sinners shall return to you.

Pastor: Deliver me from death, O God,* and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

ALL: Open my lips, O Lord,* and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Pastor: Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,* but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

ALL: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;* a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

EXHORTATION

Pastor: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love--the discipline of Lent--help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Silence for reflection and self-examination precedes the confession.

CONFESSION

Pastor: Most holy and merciful Father:

ALL: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Pastor: 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.

ALL: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Pastor: 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 your Holy Spirit.

ALL: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Pastor: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

ALL: we confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

ALL: we confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

ALL: we confess to you, Lord.

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

ALL: we confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

ALL: we confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **ALL: accept our repentance, Lord.**

Pastor: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **ALL: accept our repentance, Lord.**

Pastor: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **ALL: accept our repentance, Lord.**

Pastor: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

ALL: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

When ashes are to be imposed, those who desire to receive ashes come forward. The minister applies ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:

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

After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.

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

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

Pastor: By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

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

Pastor: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live.

Pastor: Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

GREETING

Pastor: From our God who loves us with an everlasting love, who brings forth a new creation in Christ, who leads us by the Spirit in the wilderness: Grace and abundant mercy be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from Joel.

Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in

the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever 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.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

H YMN: ELW 319 “O Lord, throughout these forty days”

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past. word.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal love.
ny our - selves that we join may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

THE PRAYERS

Pastor: As we seek in this Lenten time to grow in our faith, let us pray for the life of the world.

A brief silence.

Pastor: For our Lenten journey, that the clouds and thick darkness of our sin might give way to Easter's rising light, and that through humble almsgiving, prayer, and fasting our lives would breathe in and out God's constant love, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those whose brows are marked on this day, that the reminder of mortality might lead them closer to the one who has overcome death for all, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the world, that conflicts might cease, disaster be averted, hatred transformed, and peace be found, through the One who is slow to anger and abounding in love, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the church, that we may be humble in our serving, giving food to the hungry, shelter to the homeless poor, comfort to the afflicted (*especially*), let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: In remembrance of those who have died and have found their rest in you, that we, having nothing, may join with them in possessing everything, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Grant these prayers, merciful God, and all that we need, as we eagerly await the Easter feast; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: God our Redeemer,

ALL: receive all we bring to you this day--these gifts and the offering of our lives. Refresh us with this holy food and drink

that we may reach the promised land, the Easter feast of victory in Christ our Lord. Amen

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

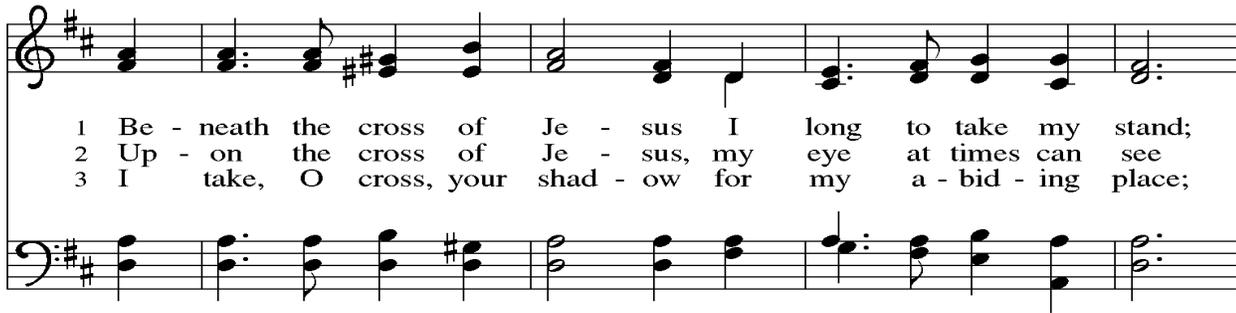
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: All who are hungry, come and eat the bread of life.

All who are thirsty, come and drink the cup of salvation.

COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW 338, 592

ELW#338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus



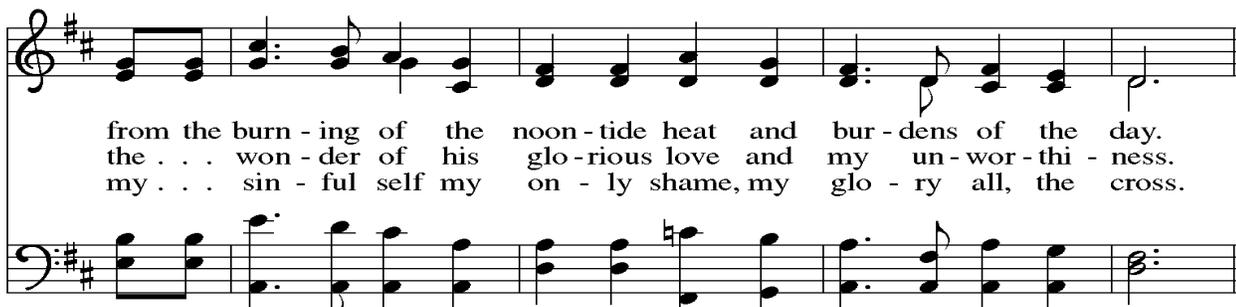
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

ELW 592 Just As I Am, Without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

The musical score is written in G minor (two flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final line of the hymn.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Compassionate God, your Son welcomed sinners and ate with them. We give you thanks for the forgiveness and grace we have received in this meal. Make us signs of your love, that all the world may know your mercy and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

BLESSING

Pastor: The God who formed us in love, who renews us through grace, and who will transform us into glory, + bless you this day and always. **ALL: Amen**

HYMN: ELW 501 “Come with us, O blessed Jesus”

Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;

The third system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

The fourth system of music concludes the hymn with a double bar line. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.