



ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 2, 2022

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

Throughout the Bible, ashes have been associated with humility, repentance, and mortality. In Genesis, we read of the great patriarch: "Abraham answered and said, 'Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes'" (Genesis 18:27). In Job, we read that the long-suffering Job said of his life: "I have become like dust and ashes" (Job 30:19b). Daniel the prophet states: "Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking Him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes" (Daniel 9:3). Ash Wednesday brings us the opportunity to follow the pattern set by our spiritual ancestors and to begin the observance of "a holy Lent" as we come before the Lord in ashes.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Ashes are a symbol of our sorrow over our sin. They remind us of our mortality and our need for a Savior, and indicate the beginning of a new life through repentance. Ashes will be given to those who wish to receive them during the time of Holy Communion before receiving the bread and wine. If you would rather not receive ashes, just bow your head to indicate this to the pastor. Parents are encouraged to speak with their children beforehand about the ashes and their meaning. Ashes will not be given to little children without their parent's consent.

Prelude

"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

V. Hildner

Opening Hymn

"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

#915

1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.

4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt.

Text: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Confessional Address

P Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink...

...May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C Amen.

Confession & Absolution

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe. 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.

C Create in us new and contrite hearts, that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Epistle

✠ The Ministry of Reconciliation ✠

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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. ³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Joel 2:13b

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

Men's Choir Anthem—(7pm Only)

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

arr. Pooler

Holy Gospel

✠ The Passover with the Disciples ✠

Luke 22:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. ²And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.

³Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. ⁴He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. ⁵And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. ⁶So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd. ⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." ⁹They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" ¹⁰He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹²And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." ¹³And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Confession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.

The Apostles' Creed

He ascended into heaven and sits at the
right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

“O, Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

#418

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days
You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin,
And free us from our past.
- 2 You strove with Satan, and You won;
Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust
In God's eternal Word.
- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet You
prayed
And fixed Your mind above;

So teach us to deny ourselves,
Since we have known God's love.

- 4 Be with us through this season, Lord,
And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns,
We join in heaven's praise.

*Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–98;
para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930*

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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

† SERVICE of the SACRAMENT †

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven...

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

Hymn

“Just As I Am”

#570

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> <p>2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> <p>3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> | <p>4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> <p>5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> <p>6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> |
|---|---|

*Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Text: Public domain*

Hymn

“O Jesus, Blessed Lord to Thee”

#632

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 O Jesus, blessèd Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.</p> | <p>2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!</p> |
|---|--|

*Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J.
Mason, 1851–1928
Text: Public domain*

Communion Blessing

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

Closing Prayers

P Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have again refreshed us with the body and blood of Your only-begotten Son. As You have called us by Your mercy, grant that we daily rise from the ashes of this world, looking to You in hope and seeking those things that are above; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Gracious and merciful God, You forgive the sins of all who come to You with penitent and contrite hearts. Grant us the spirit of true repentance to acknowledge our sins and to find in You forgiveness and restoration, wholeness, and peace; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

“Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

#585 sts. 1-3 & 6

1 Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide.
O let Your Word, that saving light,
Shine forth undimmed into the night.

2 In these last days of great distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That we keep pure till life is spent
Your holy Word and Sacrament.

3 To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold
Speak tongues of fire and make us bold

To shine Your Word of saving grace
Into each dark and loveless place.

6 Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true;
Preserve our faith our whole life through—
Your Word alone our heart’s defense,
The Church’s glorious confidence.

Text: tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt.; (st. 1): Philipp Melancthon, 1497–1560; (st. 1): German version Geistliche Psalmen, 1611, Nuremberg; (sts. 2–3, 6): Nicolaus Selnecker, 1532–92
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Postlude



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalist: Stan Wirtschoreck
Altar Care: (11am) Cathy Kumke; (7pm) Denise Murray

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