



## Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021—3:30 and 7:00 pm

*Today we begin a spiritual journey that will span forty days, from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday before Resurrection Sunday. In the early days of the Church, the season of Lent was a time of preparation for new converts as they readied their hearts to enter into Christian Baptism on Easter Sunday. Since these new members were to be received into a living community of faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church because of explicit sin would prepare to rejoin the community of faith.*

*Today the season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, self-examination, and penitence for all Christians as we prepare to celebrate Easter. Through this forty-day journey, we are reminded that we are totally unworthy before God, that we have nothing with which we can obtain salvation, and that our best efforts at being righteous fall far short. This season reminds us how much we need grace in our lives in order to live a transformed life that reflects God's love. We are called to renew our commitments and our faith as we continually acknowledge our need for God's transforming presence with us.*

*We invite you to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.*

### THE BELLS

#### SONG OF INVITATION

#### Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

1. Lord, who through-out these for-ty days For us didst fast and pray,  
2. As Thou with Sa-tan didst con-tend, And didst the vic-t'ry win,  
3. As Thou didst hun-ger bear, and thirst, So teach us, gra-cious Lord,  
4. And through these days of pen-i-tence, And through Thy pa-ssion-tide,  
5. A-bide with us, that so, this life Of suf-fring o-ver past,

Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins And close by Thee to stay.  
O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to con-quer sin.  
To die to self, and chief-ly live By Thy most ho-ly Word.  
Yea, ev-er-more in life and death, Je-sus, with us a-bide.  
An Eas-ter of un-end-ing joy We may at-tain at last.

M Grace, mercy, and peace are yours from God our Father and the Lord † Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

M Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are a God of mercy and grace. You forgive the sins of all who turn to you in repentance. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we who come to you with heavy hearts lamenting our failures and our sins, may receive from you forgiveness, reconciliation, and transformation through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### FIRST LESSON

**2 Samuel 24:10-25**

*David fails to put his trust in God and determines his "strength" by counting his fighting men. As a leader of God's people, what he has done is not secret. David is given three options as a consequence of his public sin. David chooses the option that places his people in the hands of God... "for his mercy is great" (v. 14).*

David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

<sup>11</sup> Before David got up the next morning, the word of the LORD had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer: <sup>12</sup> "Go and tell David, 'This is what the LORD says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'"

<sup>13</sup> So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come on you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me."

<sup>14</sup> David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands."

<sup>15</sup> So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. <sup>16</sup> When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

<sup>17</sup> When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the LORD, "I have sinned; I, the shepherd, have done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall on me and my family."

<sup>18</sup>On that day Gad went to David and said to him, “Go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” <sup>19</sup>So David went up, as the LORD had commanded through Gad. <sup>20</sup>When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.

<sup>21</sup>Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?”

“To buy your threshing floor,” David answered, “so I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped.”

<sup>22</sup>Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. <sup>23</sup>Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king.” Araunah also said to him, “May the LORD your God accept you.”

<sup>24</sup>But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. <sup>25</sup>David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the LORD answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

M This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to you, O God.**

## ANTHEM

**Come As You Are**  
**David Crowder & Matt Maher**

## THE GOSPEL

**Luke 18:9-14**

*Works and outward appearances matter little to God. He is looking for a contrite heart which confesses its sin and looks to him for forgiveness. Such a person is justified, declared innocent before God.*

<sup>9</sup>To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

<sup>13</sup>“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

<sup>14</sup>“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

M This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

## CONFESSION

## PSALM 51

M Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

C **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

M And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment. Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

C **Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

M Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

C **Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

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

C **Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another that we lack any righteousness of our own. We come before you unworthy of your love. We have often failed to live as your people, by our own fault, 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.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

M Too often, 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.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

M We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: our pride, our hypocrisy, and the impatience of our lives, our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

- M Our unrighteous anger, our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
- C **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- M Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to bear witness to others the faith that is in us,
- C **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- M 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, for all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.
- C **Hear us, for Jesus' sake.**
- M Restore us, O Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
- C **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**
- M Accomplish in us 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.**
- M The Lord is patient with us, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) God so loved this world that he sent Christ to reconcile the world to himself. God pardons those who honestly repent and transforms those who trust in God for salvation with sincere hearts. In the name of Jesus, who is the Christ, I proclaim the forgiveness of sins to you. Know that you are reconciled to God, accepted, and loved.
- C **Amen.**

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

- M Let us pray.  
Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.
- M People of God, you are invited in the spirit of penitence, to receive on your head or hand in ashes the sign of the cross, the symbol of our mortality, a symbol of the cost of sin, and yet the sign of our salvation and promise of eternal life.

*While the song is being sung, those who desire to receive the sign of ashes may proceed to the stations at the front of the church. Please indicate whether you would prefer the sign on your head or on your hand.*

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

## SERMON

**Mark 14:1-11**  
*Pastor David Kuehl*

**Respond to the Magnanimous Nature of Jesus**

1. **In faith, not denial**
2. **With generosity, not greed**

Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. <sup>2</sup>“But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

<sup>3</sup>While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

<sup>4</sup>Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup>It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

<sup>6</sup>"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup>The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. <sup>9</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

<sup>10</sup>Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. <sup>11</sup>They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

## **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, 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**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 also with you.**

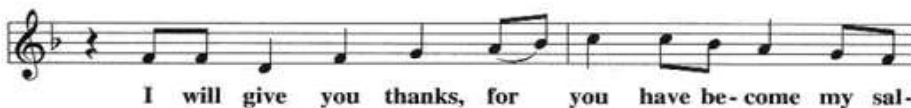
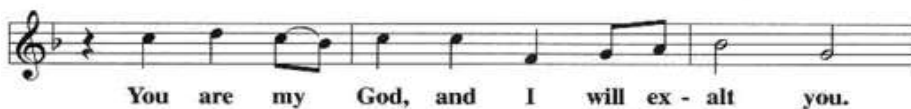
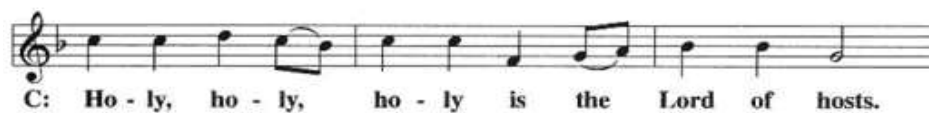
M Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

M It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We give you thanks because you have loved us and valued us even though we are but dust. You have forgiven our sins, transformed us into your people, and filled us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, enabling us to live faithfully as your redeemed and holy people. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



M Lord God, heavenly Father, you are holy, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by



water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night on which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**C** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

**M** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

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 HYMN

Draw Near

*Refrain*

Draw near, draw near! Take the bod - y  
of your Lord. Draw near, draw near!  
Drink the blood for you out-poured!

*To verses* | *Last time*

*Verses*

1 Draw near and take the bod - y of your Lord,  
2 Christ our Re - deem - er, God's e - ter - nal Son,  
3 Let us ap - proach with faith - ful hearts sin - cere  
4 With heav'n - ly bread he makes the hun - gry whole,

And drink the ho - ly blood for you out-poured.  
Has by his cross and blood the vic - t'ry won.  
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.  
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.

Saved by his bod - y and his ho - ly blood, With  
He gave his life for great - est and for least, Him -  
Christ, who in this life all the saints de - fends, Gives  
Lord of the na - tions, to whom all must bow, In

*To Refrain*

souls re - freshed we give our thanks to God.  
self the of - f'ring and him - self the Priest.  
all be - liev - ers life that nev - er ends.  
this great feast of love be with us now.

## CLOSING EXHORTATION AND BLESSING

**M** Go in peace, remembering that you are but dust and ashes and unworthy of being called the people of God. But also remember that, in his grace, God has made you his own, adopting you as a child in his own household. Go forth in the joy and peace of forgiveness and be Christ to the world.

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you and + give you peace.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DO YOU REALLY KNOW ME?

“Who do you say I am?” (Mark 8:30) Jesus asked his disciples that critical question just six months before his crucifixion.



Over the six weeks of Lent, we will study the Gospel of Mark to answer that critical question anew. On the weekends, we will work our way through Mark 1-11. During our Wednesday meditations, we will focus on Jesus’ suffering in the last chapters of Mark.

On the Wednesdays of Lent, after Ash Wednesday, the 3:30 service will include a Children’s Message as part of our on-going effort to welcome families back into regular in-person worship.

<b>Ash Wednesday, February 17</b>	<b>Magnanimous</b>	<b>Mark 14:1-11</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 24</b>	<b>Patient</b>	<b>Mark 14:26-42</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 3</b>	<b>Courageous</b>	<b>Mark 14:43-65</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 10</b>	<b>Irreproachable</b>	<b>Mark 14:66-15:15</b>

### Weekends

<b>February 21</b>	<b>The Healer</b>	<b>Mark 1-2</b>
<b>February 28</b>	<b>The Teacher</b>	<b>Mark 3-4</b>
<b>March 7</b>	<b>God in Flesh</b>	<b>Mark 5-6</b>
<b>March 14</b>	<b>The Compassionate</b>	<b>Mark 7-8</b>

## COMMUNION PROCEDURE

*There will be two lines for distribution at most of our services. The church will be split in half. The two sections in front of the pulpit will receive Communion using the table in front of the pulpit. The two sections in front of the lectern will receive Communion using the table in front of the lectern.*

*Ushers will dismiss communicants from their pew; **however, no one will be dismissed to the center aisle.***

- ***The pulpit side** will go to their **left** and use the aisle to the left of their pew to walk forward.*
- ***The lectern side** will dismiss to their **right** and use the aisle to the right of their pew to walk forward.*

*Communicants will wait in the aisle, socially distanced as indicated by the carpet circles. They will approach the individual distributing the bread, receiving the bread in cupped hands as he speaks. They will then move toward the center of the church to the wine trays, pick up their wine and drink it as the distributor speaks. All will return to their pew using the center aisle. Following the distribution, the pastor will pronounce the general blessing on the communicants.*

## OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

*The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith.*

*We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes to provide an overview of our teachings. Following the Promise is currently being held on Tuesday evenings. We invite you to register for this online class on the back of your Connection Card or by contacting Pastor Strobel at [nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:nstrobel@stpaulmuskego.org).*

*If you are a member of St. Paul's or a member of a WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to express our common confession by communing with us. You may wish to use the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" of Christian Worship to examine yourself. These prayers can be found at the Welcome Center in the lobby. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card.*

*The light-colored cups contain non-alcoholic wine. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform the distributor as you approach to receive the bread.*