

Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith
with Peter

Art, reflections, &
poetry for the
season of Lent



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Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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Invocation and Opening Words

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

P: O Lord,

C: **have mercy.**

P: O Christ,

C: **have mercy.**

P: O Lord,

C: **have mercy.**

P: Be gracious to us.

C: **Spare us, good Lord.**

P: Be gracious to us.

C: **Help us, good Lord.**

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: **have mercy.**

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: **have mercy.**

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: **grant us Your peace.**



Imposition of Ashes If you desire ashes to be placed on your forehead, please approach the communion rail on either side—kneeling or standing. Pastor Squires will put ashes on your forehead in the shape of the cross saying, “From dust you are, to dust you shall return.” You may then remain for personal reflection or return to your seat.

The choir will sing the anthem during this time followed by the congregational hymn.

Anthem

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Adult Choir

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,

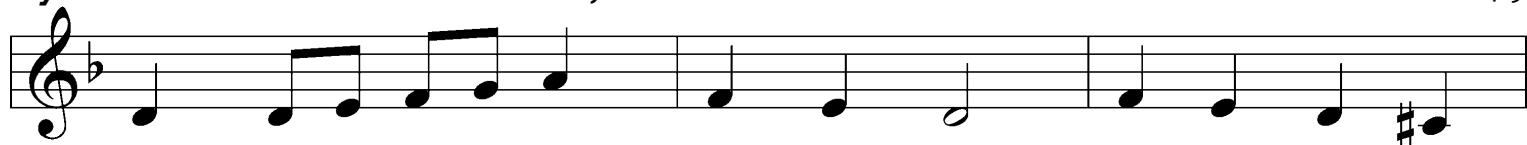


To die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.
 Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
 An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Hymn

Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

What Does This Mean? (by Tanner Olson)

P: Ash Wednesday rubs reality in your face.

It doesn't sugarcoat the truth or attempt to make you smile.

Ash Wednesday disregards feelings and simply says it like it is:

Dust you are and to dust you shall return.

May the ashes remind you that you are here for now, but not forever.

May the ashes remind you that you are sinful and death is on the way.

Yet, as you stare reality in the face may you know this:

Hope doesn't let the story end.

The cross marked on your forehead is a reminder of how you were saved.

Jesus' cross and Jesus' life turns our death into everlasting life.

Death is coming, but so is Jesus.

C: Amen.

Absolution (Assurance of Forgiveness)

P: At the command of the Lord, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy God the Father provided a ram as a substitute. We give thanks to the Father that on Calvary He did not spare His only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. The God of all grace has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, and He Himself restores, confirms, strengthens, and establishes you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. According to his great mercy, he has caused you to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Acknowledgments

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.
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What is Ash Wednesday? © Tanner Olson. www.writtentospeak.com Used by kind permission.



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

A Reading About Peter**Luke 5:1-11 (ESV)**

¹On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on [Jesus] to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ²and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ⁶And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." ⁹For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." ¹¹And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Companion Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10 (ESV)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

⁶Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Hymn of the Day

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

LSB 610



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

Devotion

- **Commentary:** *Luke 5:1-11*
by the Rev. Dr. Terence Lester
(LoveBeyondWalls.org)
- **Art:** *"River of Grace"*
by the Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity
- **Poem:** *"All This Time"*
by the Rev. Sarah Speed



Offering

Prayers

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

. . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here, followed by. . .*] . . .

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ,
let us give thanks to the Lord:

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and
our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C: **To You, O Lord.**

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. 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.**

Closing Hymn

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609 sts. 1, 4-6



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -
5 Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scar - let
6 Now my con - science is at peace; From the Law I



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;
my trans - gres - sion, It shall be as white as snow
stand ac - quit - ted. Christ hath pur - chased my re - lease



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my
By Thy blood and bit - ter pas - sion; For these words I
And my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re - mains my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
now be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Devotion, artwork, poetry, and series by:

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