

## THE LITUGY OF LENT

Lent is a season of solemn, penitential (repentant) reflection of our sin and the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation. In Lent, we put away the *Alleluia* verse, the *Gloria in Excelsis*, and the *Gospel procession* until the Easter Vigil. These changes reflect the solemn, penitential character of the season and aid our Lenten reflection. We will also use Divine Service Setting Four throughout Lent to aid us in our Lenten observance.

## LENTEN DISCIPLINES

The Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday is Mt. 6:1-6, 16-21, where the Lord speaks of three disciplines of the Christian life: prayer, fasting and giving alms. Jesus commands that we practice these things in secret, because they are not for the praise of men, but for training in righteousness. Lent is a time of increased prayer, fasting (giving up food for a time, such as a meal a day) and almsgiving (donations to the poor and impoverished of the world).

Consider a personal plan for fasting. Normally, fasting is the setting aside of one meal per day, to devote the hour you would normally be eating to prayer. For your prayers, we have a devotion in the narthex called “Jesus Deliver Us: Set Us Free” for your use at home. I also have a chart to pray the whole Psalter (Book of Psalms) during the forty days of Lent in this month’s newsletter. For alms, consider a donation to some local or national charity.

Our Lenten disciplines are not done to merit some kind of righteousness before God. We do not pray, fast, or give alms to save ourselves. We trust and believe that we are already righteous and saved in Jesus. However, these disciplines are an aid to us because they remind us to entrust ourselves and our possessions to Jesus, who gave all he had for our life and salvation. Consider also making use of Individual Confession and Absolution with Pr. Yeager, 6:30-7:30am Sunday mornings in his office.

*Midweek Lenten Services* are at 7pm with a supper before hosted by the various groups and families the congregation. The theme of this Midweek Lenten series is “The Apostles’ Creed.” We will consider who our God is and what he has done for us: the God who created us, the God who redeemed us in Christ by his holy precious blood, the God who sanctifies us in the water of Baptism that we may be his own and live in his kingdom forever.

## THE DIVINE SERVICE OF ASH WEDNESDAY

*With the Imposition of Ashes*

*February 26, 2020*



“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments.”  
Return to the LORD your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
and he relents over disaster.

**Joel 12:12-19**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church LCMS – Preble**  
4510 W 750 N. | Decatur, Ind. 46733



**Prayer Before Worship.** O Lord who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all Your people. As we come to worship in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we all may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, whom you made to be sin who knew no sin, that we may not receive Your grace in vain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

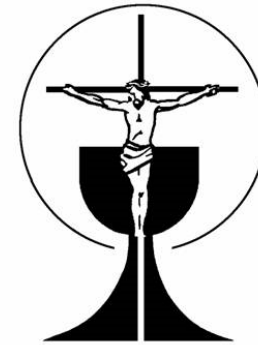
---

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent. The Imposition of Ashes has its foundation in the ritual observances of Old Testament Israel. When the people would gather before God to repent of their sin, they would humble themselves with sackcloth and ashes [Jer. 6:26].

Tonight, as we come before God in repentance, mourning and lamenting our sin and the destruction that sin has wrought in the world and in our lives, we take the palm branches used in last year's Palm Sunday procession, which have been burned to ashes, trace the Sign of the Holy Cross traced upon our foreheads, while hearing the words God spoke to Adam after the Fall: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" [Gen. 3:19].

Just as the people of Israel marked their doors at the first Passover with the blood of the Lamb, shielding them from the angel of death, the ash on our foreheads tonight is marked in the shape of a cross, reminding us of the Lamb of God who has saved us by his blood and marked us in Holy Baptism as his own, that we might not taste death but live with him forever. We repent in view of the Lamb that was slain, trusting and firmly believing that in his blood we have forgiveness and life.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED



*A Lenten Sermon Series  
For the Midweek Services of Lent  
All Midweek Services (except Maundy Thurs. and Good Fri.)  
will be preceded by a supper at 5:45.*

February 26, 2020 ASH WEDNESDAY

March 4, 2020 APOSTLES' CREED: *First Article*  
*Lenten Midweek 2, 7pm*

March 11, 2020 APOSTLES' CREED: *First Article*  
*Lenten Midweek 3, 7pm*

March 18, 2020 APOSTLES' CREED: *Second Article*  
*Lenten Midweek 4, 7pm*

March 25, 2020 APOSTLES' CREED: *Second Article*  
*Lenten Midweek 5, 7pm*

April 1, 2020 APOSTLES' CREED: *Third Article*  
*Lenten Midweek 6, 7pm*

April 9, 2020 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7pm

April 10, 2020 GOOD FRIDAY 7pm

April 11, 2020 EASTER VIGIL (St. John, Bingen) 7pm

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

AGNUS DEI *Lamb of God, Pure and Holy stanza 1* P. 434

*Distribution*

COMMUNION HYMN *On My Heart Imprint Your Image* P. 422

COMMUNION HYMN *We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died* P. 429

NUNC DIMITTIS P. 211

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN *O Christ, You Walked the Road* P. 424

---

**The choir sings:** "For God So Loved the World," during the *Imposition of Ashes*; "In Darkness Do I Wander," during the *Offering*; and "Lamb of God" during the *Distribution of Holy Communion*.

## THE DIVINE SERVICE | ASH WEDNESDAY

*After the bells, stand. The procession of the cross proceeds in silence.*

### LENTEN ADDRESS

P. Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope. Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

### THE LITANY OF ASH WEDNESDAY (Prayed responsively)

O Lord, **have mercy.**

O Christ, **have mercy.**

O Lord, **have mercy.**

O Christ, **hear us.**

God the Father in heaven, **have mercy.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy.**

Be gracious to us. **Spare us, good Lord.**

Be gracious to us. **Help us, good Lord.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your holy nativity; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by your agony and bloody sweat; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial; by your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter: **Help us, good Lord.**

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment: **Help us, good Lord.**

We poor sinners implore you **to hear us, O Lord.**

To prosper the preaching of your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance: **We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To draw all to yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the

lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all: **We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

To turn our hearts to you; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers: **We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, **we implore you to hear us.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **have mercy.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **have mercy.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **grant us your peace.**

O Christ, **hear us.**

O Lord, **have mercy.**

O Christ, **have mercy.**

O Lord, **have mercy. Amen.**

O God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore you to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises you have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who are to receive a mark of ash as a sign of repentance and faith in Christ may come forward in a single line down the middle aisle. Pastor will mark each person individually. After, please return by the side aisles.*

HYMN DURING IMPOSITION *Savior, When in Dust to Thee* P. 419

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION P. 203

THE KYRIE P. 204

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY P. 205

Let us pray: O God, you desire not the death of sinners, but that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore you to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge

that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises you have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Sit*

#### READINGS

Old Testament: Joel 2:12-19

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*Stand*

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Sixth chapter.*

(spoken) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

(spoken) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED P. 206

*Sit*

HYMN OF THE DAY *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* P. 440

#### SERMON

#### OFFERING

#### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*Stand*

PREFACE & PROPER PREFACE P. 208

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS P. 208

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING