

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI *(p. 180 in hymnal)*

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION *takes place in silence.*

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *(p. 181 in hymnal)*

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done. Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly hear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
People: **and His mercy endures forever.**

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: **Amen.**

HYMN "Lord Jesus, Think on Me" LSB #610

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Grace Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2018

AS WE GATHER

The imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a sign of mortality and death. On this first day of Lent, we enter the season with an extended time of repentance and confession of sin. We reflect on Jesus' holy Passion as we hear the account of His journey to the cross culminating in His suffering and death. We pray that our Lord might bless this time of penitence and reflection as we await His resurrection.

+ PREPARATION +

Stand

INTRODUCTION

Due to the solemn character of the day, preservice music and a hymn of invocation are omitted. The pastor enters in silence.

Pastor: 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 God's 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 *is prayed responsively as on page 288-289 in the pew hymnal, the collect follows...*

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The pastor and assistants receive ashes first, followed by the congregation. Using the right thumb, the pastor or an assistant places the ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying:

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

The words are heard repeated over each person.

The ashes are imposed at the foot of the chancel in continuous fashion. After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place and is seated in silence. There is no statement of dismissal.

HYMN "Savior, When in Dust to Thee" LSB #419

Kneel

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

People: Amen.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

**People: 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.**

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth. 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. 178 in hymnal)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might:
Heav’n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

INTROIT

Psalm 51:1–3, 10–12; antiphon: v. 17 is chanted in unison

**The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will | not despise.
Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your | steadfast
love;*
according to Your abundant mercy blot out my trans- |
gressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!
For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
Cast me not away from Your | presence,*
and take not Your Holy Spirit | from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will | not despise.**

Stand

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

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.

People: **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Joel 2:12–19*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE *Joel 2:13b*

People: **Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down
 from heaven**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” LSB #611

SERMON

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(After each petition)

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,
People: **hear our prayer.**

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

OFFERTORY “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” LSB #422