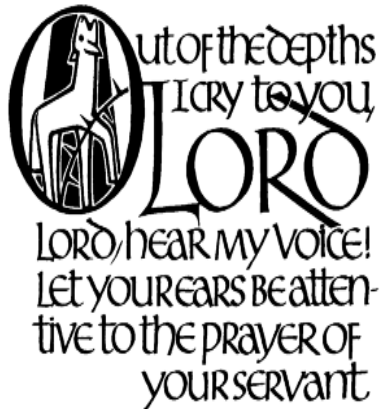


ASH
WEDNESDAY
HOLY COMMUNION



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Wednesday, March 2, 2011

10:30 am & 6:30 pm

LENT (ASH WEDNESDAY TO HOLY SATURDAY)

Forty Days excluding Sundays (which are in Lent, not of Lent)

Lent's overarching theme is the battle waged by Christ against Satan, in which we are not spectators but participants. The weekdays concentrate on the suffering of Christ, while the Sundays show various victories along the way to the final victory over Satan at Christ's Resurrection. Lent is about what Christ did and does for us, and then, secondarily, as we receive the forgiveness of our sins, we strive, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to overcome the sins which beset us.

The mood of Lent is deep penitence. While our eyes are fixed upon Christ and His suffering for us, we must at the same time see how we have been the cause of that suffering. Lent can be seen as Divine Drama, in which we are on the stage, both as the sinful members of the crowd shouting "Crucify Him!" and as the disciples who were weak of faith and despaired at His death. At the same time, we see the Cross as victory, not defeat.

To emphasize the penitential mood, certain changes are made in the liturgy. The Alleluias are removed; the *Gloria in Excelsis* is omitted, and no flowers are placed in the chancel. All crucifixes in the Church may be veiled. The veils indicate that Jesus hid His Divinity behind the veil of His Flesh in order to suffer and die for us.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It began as the day that penitents who had been excommunicated from the Church came to be enrolled for reinstatement, which would take place on Holy Thursday. They would lie on the ground, wearing sack-cloth garments, and after an exhortation: from the Bishop, ashes would be sprinkled upon them. This Biblical gesture came to be embraced by all Christians as a sign of repentance. It is now administered by applying a Cross on the forehead with ashes accompanied by the sober reminder: "Remember, O man that dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return!"

Seeing, then, that Christ has taken our sin upon Himself, how are we to live? During Lent we look to Christ also for guidance and help to overcome our vices. The three Lenten disciplines recommended by our Lord are given in the Gospel and address the major sins of greed, spiritual apathy, and fleshly indulgence. The change in our lives is meant to be permanent, and not just a "giving up something for Lent." The "something" we give up is the vice which besets us. It may well be represented by some particular food or past-time. The object is to bring our flesh under control of our spirit. By saying "no" to those things which in themselves may not be sinful, we are strengthened to say "no" to those which are.

As St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:25-27: "Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

The color for most of Lent is a sober violet, to show the seriousness of sin.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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 Lenten tide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

P *O Lord,*

C **have mercy.**

P *O Christ,*

C **have mercy.**

P *O Lord,*

C **have mercy.**

P *O Christ,*

C **hear us.**

P *God the Father in heaven,*

C **have mercy.**

P *God the Son, Redeemer of the world,*

C **have mercy.**

P *God the Holy Spirit,*

C **have mercy.**

P *Be gracious to us.*

C **Spare us, good Lord.**

P *Be gracious to us.*

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P *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:*

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P *In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:*

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P *We poor sinners implore You*

C **to hear us, O Lord.**

P *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:*

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P *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:*

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P *To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:*

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,*

C **we implore You to hear us.**

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.**

P *O Christ,*

C **hear us.**

P *O Lord,*

C **have mercy.**

P *O Christ,*

C **have mercy.**

P *O Lord,*

C **have mercy. Amen.**

HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440 (st. 1-3)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Ps. 51:1–3, 10–12; antiphon: Ps. 51:17

P The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

C **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

C **For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

P 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.

P Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

KYRIE

LSB 186

SALUTATION

LSB 189

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 59:12–20

¹²For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities: ¹³transgressing, and denying the LORD, and turning back from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words. ¹⁴Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. ¹⁵Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. ¹⁶He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. ¹⁷He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak. ¹⁸According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment. ¹⁹So they shall fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the LORD drives. ²⁰“And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

GRADUAL

Heb. 12:2

P [O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

VERSE OF THE DAY

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 18:9–14

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee O Christ

NICENE CREED

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

PAX DOMINI **LSB 197**

AGNUS DEI **LSB 198**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

My Song Is Love Unknown **LSB 430**

Today Your Mercy Calls Us **LSB 915**

Lamb of God **LSB 550**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE - Nunc Dimittis – *Song of Simeon* **LSB 199**

THANKSGIVING **LSB 200**

P O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS **LSB 201-202**

BENEDICTION **LSB 202**

CLOSING HYMN Jesus, I Will Ponder Now **LSB 440 (st. 4-6)**

POSTLUDE Christ the Life of all the Living G. Telemann



To God Alone Be the Glory!