



## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021 - 6:30PM

**AS WE GATHER:** We are called to remember our mortality as human beings. We are dust and ashes. We are sinful. We will all die one day. Yet, we also remember our immortality that is gifted to us because of Christ and His saving work on the cross. Lent is a desert journey from the dust and ashes of Ash Wednesday to the cross and forgiveness of Good Friday, and then ultimately, to the joys of Easter and new life. But we do not fast-forward through the desert. We still must wander through Lent in humility and faith.

***Rolling Stones*** - Drawing on the rich imagery of rocks and stones in Scripture, this Lenten sermon series centers around the compelling metaphor of stones. These metaphors illustrate God's will for our lives and our failure to trust, follow and obey Him in all things. These stones show us our sins and our need for a Savior, Jesus, the Rock of our Salvation. Join us this Lenten season as we journey to the Cross of Christ and the forgiveness that He won for us. This series begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, and continues Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings during Lent.

**INTRODUCTION:** Due to the solemn character of the day, preservice music and a hymn of invocation are omitted.

The pastors and acolytes enter in silence.

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: Amen.

### CONFESSON

*Psalm 51*

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
People: A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;  
People: According to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
People: And cleanse me from my sin!

Pastor: For I know my transgressions,  
People: And my sin is ever before me.

Pastor: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in  
Your sight,  
People: So that You may be justified in Your words and blameless  
in Your judgment.

Pastor: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my  
mother conceive me.  
People: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You  
teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Pastor: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
People: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Pastor: Let me hear joy and gladness;  
People: Let the bones that You have broken rejoice.

Pastor: Hide Your face from my sins,  
People: And blot out all my iniquities.

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
People: And renew a right spirit within me.

Pastor: Cast me not away from Your presence,  
People: And take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
People: And uphold me with a willing spirit.

Pastor: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will  
return to You.  
People: 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.

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
People: A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

(Please be seated)

**ANTHEM**

*Create In Me*  
Voices of Praise

(John Purifoy)

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

(Sung during the imposition of ashes)

- 1     Savior, when in dust to Thee  
Low we bow the adoring knee;  
When, repentant, to the skies  
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
O, by all Thy pains and woe  
Suffered once for us below,  
Bending from Thy throne on high,  
Hear our penitential cry!
  
- 2     By Thy helpless infant years,  
By Thy life of want and tears,  
By Thy days of deep distress  
In the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour  
Of the insulting tempter's pow'r,  
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye;  
Hear our penitential cry!
  
- 3     By Thine hour of dire despair,  
By Thine agony of prayer,  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies  
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,  
Listen to our humble sigh;  
Hear our penitential cry!
  
- 4     By Thy deep expiring groan,  
By the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode  
Held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav'n restored,  
Mighty, re-ascended Lord,  
Bending from Thy throne on high,  
Hear our penitential cry!

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*(Those who desire to receive ashes come forward, following the directions of the ushers.)*

**ABSOLUTION (Please stand)**

Pastor:     Though we are dust and to dust we shall return, the Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore Him to grant us

true repentance and His Holy Spirit that those things may please Him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to His eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

## SALUTATION

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Gracious and merciful God and Father, Your mercy calls us to return to You time and time again to be reconciled and receive Your forgiveness.  
**People:** As we receive this free gift of grace, lead us to live lives of righteous service in Your name;  
  
**Pastor:** Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**People:** Amen.

**HANDBELL ANTHEM**      "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"      (M.R. Keller)

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12-19

*<sup>12</sup> "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.  
<sup>14</sup> Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
    and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
    for the Lord your God?  
<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
<sup>16</sup> gather the people.  
Consecrate the congregation;  
    assemble the elders;  
gather the children,  
    even nursing infants.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
    and the bride her chamber.*

<sup>17</sup>*Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep  
and say, “Spare your people, O Lord,  
and make not your heritage a reproach,  
a byword among the nations.*

*Why should they say among the peoples,  
‘Where is their God?’”*

<sup>18</sup>*Then the Lord became jealous for his land  
and had pity on his people.*

<sup>19</sup>*The Lord answered and said to his people,  
“Behold, I am sending to you  
grain, wine, and oil,  
and you will be satisfied;  
and I will no more make you  
a reproach among the nations.*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand)**

*“Return to the Lord”*

The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. It features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff begins with a bass clef and continues the musical line. The third staff begins with a treble clef and concludes the melody. Below the music, the lyrics are written in a mix of capital and lowercase letters, corresponding to the notes above them. The lyrics are:

C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in  
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

John 8:1-12

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John; the eighth chapter.  
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>*but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup>Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. <sup>3</sup>The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst <sup>4</sup>they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup>Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” <sup>6</sup>This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup>And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup>And*

once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup>But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup>Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” <sup>11</sup>She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

<sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

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

## **HYMN OF THE DAY (Please stand)**

#543

## **“What Wondrous Love Is This”**

- 1      What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
        What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
            What wondrous love is this  
                That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
  
  - 2      When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
        When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
            When I was sinking down  
                Beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.
  
  - 3      To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
        To God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
            To God and to the Lamb,  
                Who is the great I AM,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.
  
  - 4      And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on  
        And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
            And when from death I'm free,  
                I'll sing His love for me,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on.

## APOSTLES' CREED

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## OUR THANK OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

### OFFERTORY (Please stand)

#422

*"On My Heart Imprint Thine Image"*

On my heart imprint Your image,  
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures  
Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation,  
And my glory and salvation!

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For endurance in the faith and encouragement in forgiveness,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For pastors, teachers, and all ministers and leaders in Your  
Church, let us pray to the Lord.  
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who labor in difficult or dangerous vocations, let us  
pray to the Lord.  
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For peace and unity in our nation, let us pray to the Lord.  
People: Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For those who have not known the light of Christ or have fallen away into the darkness of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** For all those who suffer illness and grief, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** For all the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Pastor:** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

#### COMMUNICANT INSTRUCTIONS

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**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."

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor:      Merciful Father, You provide the true bread from heaven, Jesus Christ, and in His body and blood You generously forgive our sins. Grant us the power of Your Holy Spirit, that, fed and nourished at this Table, we may mark this year's Lenten journey with faith active in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People:      Amen.

## BENEDICTION

Pastor:      The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

People:      Amen.

Pastor:      As a people called to repentance and renewal on the journey to eternal life, go in peace and serve the Lord.

People:      Thanks be to God.

## CLOSING HYMN #440, vs. 1,4,5,6                    "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

- 1      Jesus, I will ponder now  
      On Your holy passion;  
      With Your Spirit me endow  
      For such meditation.  
      Grant that I in love and faith  
      May the image cherish  
      Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death  
      That I may not perish.
  
- 4      Grant that I Your passion view  
      With repentant grieving.  
      Let me not bring shame to You  
      By unholy living.  
      How could I refuse to shun  
      Ev'ry sinful pleasure  
      Since for me God's only Son  
      Suffered without measure?
  
- 5      If my sins give me alarm  
      And my conscience grieve me,  
      Let Your cross my fear disarm;  
      Peace of conscience give me.  
      Help me see forgiveness won  
      By Your holy passion.  
      If for me He slays His Son,  
      God must have compassion!

6      Graciously my faith renew;  
          Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from You,  
          Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give You love for love!  
          Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav'n above  
          Sing Your praise forever.

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**Acolytes:** Julia Bowen

**Sound:**    Amelia Sitzberger

**Elder:**