

# ASH WEDNESDAY

Four Significant Days

Significant Problem: Last Day in the Garden

February 17, 2021



## AS WE GATHER

As we enter the Lenten season, we encounter a significant problem: we have fallen into sin just as Adam and Eve did, which means we are banished from the Garden of Eden just as they were. The wages of sin is death, and without access to the tree of life, we are all doomed to die. We are dust, and to dust we shall return. Yet, in Jesus, we find that we are not doomed to dust forever, but Jesus will raise us from the dead to join Him in a new Eden, a new paradise forever.

### ✘ PREPARATION ✘

#### ON MY HEART IMPRINT YOUR IMAGE



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

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### INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES *Joel 2:12–13*

Pastor: “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,

**People: “return to Me with all your heart,**

Pastor: with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

**People: and rend your hearts and not your garments.”**

Pastor: Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**People: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;**

Pastor: and He relents over disaster.

## CONFESSIONAL ADDRESS *Joel 2:12*

Pastor: As we begin this Lenten season, we may not be wearing sackcloth and ashes, but we are heeding our Lord’s call to “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” We join in King David’s prayer of confession in Psalm 51.

## PSALM *Psalm 51:1–13; antiphon v. 17*

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  
**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.**

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES** *Genesis 3:19*

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, You spoke to Adam and Eve in the garden and said, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." Your people of ancient times wore sackcloth and ashes as a sign of repentance. We remember our sinfulness through the ashes and remember the gracious gift of forgiveness through the cross of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**People: Amen.**

*Those who wish to receive the mark of ashes upon their forehead OR their wrist may come forward. The ashes are an ancient sign of mortality and death, sorrow and forgiveness, used at the beginning of Lent.*

### **IMPOSITION HYMNS -SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO THEE**

### **ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our God has called us to return to Him so that we might be reconciled and receive the reward of His forgiveness. The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### **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.**

### **✠ WORD ✠**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Genesis 3:1–24* (Adam and Eve fall into sin. God banishes them from Eden, reminding them that they will die and return to dust.)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the

garden'?" <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. <sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." <sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." <sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." <sup>20</sup> The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" <sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

**EPISTLE**    *1 Corinthians 15:45–58*    (We have borne the image of Adam—the man of dust, but we shall bear the image of Christ—the man of heaven at the resurrection.)

<sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image

of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. <sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *Mark 6:7–13* (Jesus sends out the Twelve with a message of repentance and healing.)

<sup>7</sup> And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— <sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup> And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

**RESPONSORY**     LSB, p. 231

Pastor: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**People: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

Pastor: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**People: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

Pastor: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**People: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

## 436 GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the  
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
life ar - raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!  
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His  
Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,  
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.  
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

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## SERMON

### 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 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 Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe 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

## HYMN

### 433 GLORY BE TO JESUS



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains  
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;  
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream  
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!  
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!  
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!  
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

5 **Oft as earth exulting  
Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing  
Make their glad reply.**

6 **Lift we, then, our voices,  
Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder  
Praise the precious blood!**

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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: O Lord, we thank You for calling us to return to You.

**People: We place our confidence and trust in the reality that You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and You relent over disaster.**

Pastor: O Lord, through Christ, You reconciled us to Yourself and have given us the ministry of reconciliation.

**People: We are Your servants. Lead and empower us by Your Spirit to live lives worthy of this calling that we have received.**

Pastor: O Lord, You have freely rewarded us with the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

**People: Lead us to serve You in secret as we would with the world watching so that others may see You through us.**

## THE LITANY

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: hear us.**

Pastor: God the Father in heaven,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: God the Holy Spirit,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

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

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

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

Pastor: 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:

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

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

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

Pastor: We poor sinners implore You

**People: to hear us, O Lord.**

Pastor: 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:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: 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, [*especially . . .*]; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

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

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**People: we implore You to hear us.**

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 Your own; 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

**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

Pastor: People of God, who have returned and are reconciled and rewarded, receive the blessing of our Lord.

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.

**People: Amen.**

## 424 O CHRIST, YOU WALKED THE ROAD



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.  
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.  
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.  
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,  
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.  
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.  
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swerv-ing love.  
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.  
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.