



Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

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Ash Wednesday Service

February 17, 2021

6:00pm



*This year's Lenten Theme is "**The Road to Redemption.**" Throughout the ages God has proven that he has a well-mapped out plan for the Redemption of His people! During this year's Midweek Lenten Services we will look at how God has always had a plan—we see this throughout the Old Testament. He was preparing His people and leading them down the Road to Redemption—leading them to Jesus. As we consider various events, figures, and prophetic types from Old Testament history, we gain a better understanding and appreciation of God's mapped out plan. He reveals to us the Road that He has already led His people down—leading them to Christ. This gives us comfort and encouragement to put our trust in Him as He continues to lead US now down "**The Road to OUR Redemption.**" May God bless and strengthen our faith through His Word and Sacraments during this Lenten Season!*



Our Order of Service for Ash Wednesday makes use of the "Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution" (ELH. p. 130). This service traces its roots back to the 17th century, primarily as a service for Saturday evening, designed for Christians who would be taking Holy Communion the following day. It has been included in the altar-books and hymnals of the past century— including the Lutheran Hymnary of the Norwegian Synod, which also included a special form for parishioners to come

forward to receive individual absolution with the laying on of hands from their pastor. Though we will not be celebrating individual absolution this evening, we begin our Ash Wednesday service with this "Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution," approaching God on this Ash Wednesday with penitence— sorry for our sins and trusting in Him for His comfort and help provided through Christ Jesus. We poor sinners receive this comfort and help as we conclude our Ash Wednesday Service making use of the "Service of Holy Communion" (from Rite I ELH p. 52ff). God shares with us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.

~Hymn 453 *Out of the Deep I Call*

*1. Out of the deep I call
To Thee, O Lord, to Thee.
Before Thy throne of grace I fall;
Be merciful to me.*

*2. Out of the deep I cry,
The woeful deep of sin,
Of evil done in days gone by,
Of evil now within;*

*3. Out of the deep of fear
And dread of coming shame;
All night till morning watch is near
I plead the precious name.*

*4. Lord, there is mercy now,
As ever was, with Thee.
Before Thy throne of grace I bow;
Be merciful to me.*

~Ash Wednesday Versicles

(Job 14:1; Genesis 3:19; 1 Tim 6:7; Ps 90:7-12)

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Man who is born of woman

C: Is of few days and full of trouble.

P: For dust you are,

C: And to dust you shall return.

P: He comes forth like a flower and fades away;

C: He flees like a shadow and does not continue.

P: In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread

Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are,

C: And to dust you shall return.

P: For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

C: For dust you are,

And to dust you shall return.

P: We have been consumed by Your anger,

C: And by Your wrath we are terrified.

P: You have set our iniquities before You,

C: Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.

P: For all our days have passed away in Your wrath;

We finish our years like a sigh.

C: For dust you are,

And to dust you shall return.

P: Teach us, O Lord, to number our days,

C: That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

~The Confession of Sin

(Form III; ELH p. 131)

P: From the heart let us confess our sins unto God.

C: O Lord, our God! We come before You as poor sinful beings, and are without excuse in that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. But we believe in Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who has suffered for our salvation; and for His sake we pray you: Forgive us all our sins! Grant us Your Holy Spirit, to the end that we may believe Your pardoning Word, and that, according to the purpose and desire of our hearts, we may flee all sin, and may let Your holy and blessed will rule in all things. Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.

~Senior Choir "Psalm 51"

Antiphon: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God according to Your lovingkindness.

In Your great compassion, blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

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

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight.

Antiphon: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure, wash me and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness that the body You have broken may rejoice.

Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Antiphon: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

~The Absolution

(Form I; ELH p. 131)

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May He comfort your heart by His holy Absolution, and strengthen you by His Sacraments, that your joy may be full. Peace be with you!

~Lenten Collect

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we humbly beseech You to set Your Passion, Cross and Death between Your judgment and our souls, now, and in the hour of death.

C: Give us mercy and grace, and grant Your Church concord and peace, that at length we shall enjoy everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and Holy Spirit You reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says:
At a favorable time I listened to you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.
Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

~Senior Choir "O Spotless Lamb"

(BWV 455 J.S. Bach)

*O spotless Lamb, who died for my salvation,
And broke the ancient bonds of death for me;
On Calv'ry's hill Thou madest Thine oblation,
Which promised life throughout eternity.
Now Thou art gone on high, O spotless Lamb.
Help me to follow Thee,
O Lord, be Thou with me.*

~Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:16-21 "Whenever you fast, do not make yourself look sad like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show everyone that they are fasting. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that it is not apparent to people that you are fasting, but only to your Father

who sees what is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

“Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

~**Nicene Creed** — *Confession of faith*

(*ELH p. 47*)

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall 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 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 305 *Not All the Blood of Beasts*

1. *Not all the blood of beasts
On ancient altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.*

2. *But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.*

3. *My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of Thine
While like a penitent I stand
And there confess my sin.*

4. *My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear,
When hanging on the cursed tree,
And knows its guilt was there.*

5. *Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing His bleeding love.*

~Sermon Text

Exodus 12:5-14 Your lamb must be unblemished, a year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or the goats. You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month. Then the whole assembly of the Israelite community is to slaughter the lambs at sunset. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where they eat the lamb. That night they shall eat the meat that has been roasted over a fire, along with unleavened bread. They shall eat it with bitter herbs. Do not eat it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over a fire—with its head, its legs, and its internal organs. You shall not leave any of it until the morning. Whatever remains until the morning, you shall burn in the fire. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt ready for travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.

For on that night I will pass through the land of Egypt. I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both people and animals. Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. There will be no plague among you to destroy you when I strike down the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a memorial for you, and you are to celebrate it as a festival to the Lord. Throughout your generations you must celebrate it as a permanent regulation.

~Sermon

"The Road to Redemption: Lamb to Lamb"

~Hymn *Behold Redemption's Road*

(Tune: Old 120th Hymn #454 CW)

1. *Behold, redemption's road
On which our Savior strode
To death and grave He goes
To pay the debt we owe.
The price our souls to gain
Was cross, and lash and shame.*

2. *Recall the ancient feast!
The bread made without yeast!
Christ is the Pascal Lamb!
The seed of Abraham.
His blood is on the door
In Him death passes o'er!*

3. *How wondrous are the ways
That God his people saves
And what does God us owe?
And who His mind has known?
With humble praise now shout
these paths he has traced out!*

~Ash Wednesday Prayer & Petitions

III. The Service of Holy Communion



(Following Christ's command, we receive His grace to us in the special meal He instituted for the forgiveness of our sins. Here, He feeds with His true body and His true blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is the same body which was born of the Virgin Mary, and the same blood which dripped down the wooden cross. This part of the liturgy is one of the oldest parts, dating back to at least the third century AD.)

Questions and prayers to assist in preparing for the Lord's Supper are found in the black hymnal, pp. 38–40.

Guests & Visitors: *We practice "Close" or "Closed Communion". We do this out of love and concern for you. We want to make sure that those who take this holy meal receive it as a blessing and not to their harm as Scripture warns. We also understand that those who come forward to take communion are professing a unity of faith with our congregation and are in full agreement with the teachings and doctrines of Mount Olive Lutheran Church and of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Therefore, we ask those who have not taken Holy Communion with us before to peak with a pastor before communing. Thank you.*

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 53; Mt 6:9-13)

C: ♪ 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 pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~Words of Institution

(ELH p. 54; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "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, gave thanks, and 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 and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

~Agnus Dei — "Lamb of God"

(ELH p. 55; Jn 1:29)

C: ♪ O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God. You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

~Distribution

(Communicants come forward at the direction of the ushers. During the Distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:)

Hymn 313 vv. 1-6 *I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table*

*1. I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy Blood
Be for my soul the highest good*

*2. O grant that I in manner worthy
May now approach Thy heav'nly Board
And, as I lowly bow before Thee,
Look only unto Thee, O Lord.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy Blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

(Hymn continues on next page)

3. *Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful Shepherd art.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy Blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

4. *O let me loathe all sin forever
As death and poison to my soul,
That I through willful sinning never
May see Thy judgment take its toll!
Lord, may Thy body and Thy Blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

5. *Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

6. *Weary am I and heavy laden,
With sin my soul is sore oppressed.
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

Hymn 324 vv. 1-6 O Jesus, At Your Altar Now

1. *O Jesus, at Your altar now
In penitence and faith I bow
Before God's precious Paschal Lamb,
Who bears the world's great sin and shame.*

2. *My heart to You I gladly bring,
So sorely wounded by my sin,
And healing find in that great tide
That flows from out Your wounded side.*

3. *Today I am my Savior's guest;
My soul, consider this great feast;
He bids you now to sit at meat
With Him—and of Himself to eat.*

4. *Here tenders He in form of bread
His body, which for you did bleed;
And in the wine His royal blood,
Of grace a precious purple flood.*

5. *Eat, drink, and in your heart be glad
For such food angels never had;
And for the cup your Lord now thank,
Which heaven's angels never drank.*

6. *I trust and know what I obtain
Is far above my mind's domain.
My Jesus here entire and whole
Is food and drink for my poor soul.*

~**Dismissal** — *Assurance of blessing for those who have communed*

(ELH p. 56)

P: Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, who has now bestowed upon you His holy body and blood, whereby He has made full satisfaction for all your sins, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life. Peace be with you. Amen.

~Collect of Thanksgiving — *In appreciation of God's gifts*

(ELH p. 56)

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with these Your salutary gifts; and we beseech You of Your mercy, to strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: ♪ Amen.

~Benediction — *Final blessing for God's people*

(ELH p. 56-57; Num. 6:24-26)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.

~Hymn 297 v. 4 *Here We Have a Firm Foundation*

*4. Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the Rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.*

*Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor Luke Ulrich
Organist: John Baumann
Choir Director: Elisabeth Urtel*

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES 2021
"The Road to Redemption"

February 24: Midweek Lent 2 —
Pastor Micah Plocher (Trinity, Nicollet)
"Silence to Silence" Isaiah 42:1-4

March 3: Midweek Lent 3 —
Pastor Ken Mellon
"Garden to Garden" Genesis 3

March 10: Midweek Lent 4 —
Pastor Andrew Schmidt (St. Paul's)
"Seal to Seal" Daniel 6:16-23

March 17: Midweek Lent 5 —
Pastor Matthew Moldstad (Peace)
"Pole to Pole" Numbers 21:4-8

March 24: Midweek Lent 6 —
Pastor John Petersen
"King to King" Deuteronomy 17:18-20

