St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville, MD

Sent to Serve

ASH WEDNESDAY

Saved by Grace, through Faith
Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

"Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2b).

ORGAN PRELUDE:

Now! On Ash Wednesday the church summons us to 40 days of preparation for the celebration of the Lord's resurrection, His passage through the waters of death into life.

Preparation is a matter of urgency, not something to be put off. God calls us sinners and He hates nothing He has made. He forgives the sins of all who are penitent. Today the church summons all, both those who have followed Christ for many years and those who are just now seeking a place in His company, despite the urgency of daily demands, to cry out to the Lord, "Spare us".

Repentance is a way of life. That life is characterized by "giving to the needy" (almsgiving), prayer, and fasting (self-denial). Faith is expressed in action, it is not merely intellectual exercise or emotional experience. Faith moves us to do the works of Christ. Faith is not a matter of public show but of communion with God and the giving of self as Christ gave Himself. Lent is not a burden but an opportunity for reconciliation with God, the washing away of sin, and the consecration of life to God.

(The Pastor enters in silence.)

Stand

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

Silence for reflection.

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 teaching 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 prayer; 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 slanders; 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.**
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.

Amen.

DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS THERE WILL BE NO PERSONAL IMPOSITION OF ASHES.

A TIME OF SILENCE WILL BE KEPT FOR REFLECTION UPON OUR SINS AND OUR NEED FOR GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS.

AFTER THIS TIME OF SILENCE THE PASTOR WILL SAY:

“REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN.”

The hymn will then be sung

Hymn: Baptismal Waters Cover Me, #616

Text: © 2003 Kurt E. Reinhardt. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320
Tune: Public domain

---

```
1 Bapt - is - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap - proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther’s mer - cy
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can
3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing speaks, but You are heard; Through Him Your hand now
4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word: Your shep - herd hand has set me free; Held in my Fa - ther’s
5 Bapt - is - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ’s wound - ed here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed. all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.
```

---

5
Confession and Absolution

P 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.

C 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.

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 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. C Amen.

Salutation and Collect for Ash Wednesday

P The Lord be with you

C and also with you.

P Let us pray .... Almighty and everlasting God, because You hate nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent, create in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily repenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission 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: Joel 2: 12-19

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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. 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?’” Then the LORD became jeal-
ous for his land and had pity on his people. 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51 (various verses)

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 transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, 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 beginning, 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.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:19 - 6:2

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in
vain. For 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. We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse (Lent)  

Gospel: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew , the 6th chapter.
C Glory to You, O, Lord.

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left
And you know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Then when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ‘And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ‘Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: Today Your Mercy Calls Us, #915
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

Text and tune: Public domain

Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean to-day.
A faithful grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav’n.
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father’s home.
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.


Text and tune: Public domain
P  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 — Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

P  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-atoning 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.

C  Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER  
Matthew 6:9-13

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD
P  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.


PAX DOMINI – The Peace of the Lord  
John 20:19

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.
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.

HYMN: Drawn to The Cross, Which Thou Has Blessed, #560

1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
   With healing
2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears, Thy grace a-
3 Wash me and take away each stain; Let nothing
4 And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so
When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

HYMN: Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness, #563
POST—COMMUNION CANTICLE: Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

POST—COMMUNION COLLECT

P  Let us pray.

C  Amen.

BENEDICTION

P  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.

C  Amen.
HYMN: When I Behold Jesus Christ

Tune and text: © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320
Text (st. 4): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320
Please join us for Mid-week Lenten Worship Services
Wednesday Evenings, February 24—March 24
7 pm

Seven Last Words from the Cross will be the theme for our Lenten midweek services. We will meditate on the words Jesus spoke while suffering and gaining our salvation.
Maundy Thursday
April 1, 2021 - 7:00 pm

Good Friday
April 2, 2021 - 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021
Sunrise - 6:30 am
&
10:00 am
As a Christian family we invite you to learn more about our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are without a church home in the area and are looking for a warm, Christ centered caring family where the Word is proclaimed, and God is exalted; we invite you to be with us. We look forward to getting to know you better and ministering to your needs.

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

2001 Old Frederick Road · Baltimore, Maryland 21228
Church: 410-747-1897 · School: 410-747-1924
E-mail: secretary@stpaulcatonsville.org
Web: www.stpaulcatonsville.org
Pastor Gregory Alms
Barbara Haar, MPL
Stan Stigdon, Principal · Melissa Sunstrom, ECC Director
Belachew Kumsa, Oromo Missionary
Renata O’Reilly, Organist & Choir Director
Karen Ridgway, Church Secretary · Sara Razicka, School Secretary

Jesus calls us to be a Lutheran community gathered around Word and Sacrament and sends us to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for our neighbors everywhere.