

Ash Wednesday Worship

in view of

G O D ' S
M E R C Y



ASH WEDNESDAY:
Mercy in Ashes

March 2, 2022
7:00 PM

Grace Lutheran Church
327 Avenue C, SE
Winter Haven, FL 33880
863-293-8447 www.glwh.org

Ash Wednesday

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LENTEN CROSSES

This year's Lenten crosses were handcrafted by Grace member Dan Trinklein, using copper, that was twisted and then hammered creating this unique design.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

PRELUDE

"Passacaglia"
(Grace Bells)

Hal Hopson

WELCOME

TOLLING OF THE BELL *(after the third bell, please rise and turn to face the cross.)*

*SILENT PROCESSIONAL

Pastor: 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. God's Word speaks to us tonight.

People: **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. *Joel 2:13***

***INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Return to the Lord your God.

People: Christ crucified, I come.

Pastor: Behold His miracle of mercy.

People: Christ crucified, I come.

Pastor: Receive His gift of grace.

People: Christ crucified, I come.

Pastor: Abide in His steadfast love.

People: Christ crucified, I come.

Pastor: Rest in His unfailing faithfulness.

People: Christ crucified, I come.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Drawn to the Cross”

Hymn 560

**Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.**

Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.

TRADITIONAL LITANY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

(The congregation may be seated for prayer.)

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; 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; 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: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: grant us Your peace.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: hear us.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy. Amen.

Pastor: O God, You desire not the death of sinners but 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.

People: Amen.

O Christ, You walked the road
 Our wand'ring feet must go.
 You faced with us temptation's pow'r
 And fought our ancient foe.

When lures of easy gain
 With promise brightly shine,
 Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
 Our wills with Yours align.

OLD TESTAMENT READING*Joel 2:12-15*

¹²'Even now,' declares the LORD, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.' ¹³Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. ¹⁴Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing - grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly.

Lector: You have heard the Word of the Lord.

People: **O Lord have mercy.**

PSALMODY (*Psalms 51:1-7, 10-17*)

Lector: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

People: **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

Lector: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight; so You are right in Your verdict and justified when You judge.

People: **Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

Lector: Yet You desired faithfulness even in the womb; You taught me wisdom in that secret place.

People: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Lector: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

People: Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Lector: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

People: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, so that sinners will turn back to You.

Lector: Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, You who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.

People: Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Lector: You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

People: My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

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.

THE CHOIR ANTHEM

“Pedalpoint”
(Grace Bells)

Hal Hopson

***THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 6:16-18

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that 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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

***THE GOSPEL HYMN** “Today Your Mercy Calls Us” (vv. 1-3)

Hymn 915

Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father’s welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv’n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav’n.

Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather Around the heav’nly gates.
No question will be asked us How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father’s home.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o’er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

THE HOMILY

“Mercy in Ashes”

***THE CONFESSION**

Pastor: “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” (*Joel 2:12-13*). As our Lord summons us to return to Him with repentant hearts, we confess our sins and sorrow over them.

People: Almighty God, we are unclean before You. We are marred and

marked by the filth of sin. We have turned away from You by disobeying Your commandments. We have rebelled against You by seeking our own way rather than following Your will. Forgive us.

Pastor: We cry out to You for mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's mercy is greater.)

"Create in Me"

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

***THE ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (*Joel 2:13*). In the mercy of Almighty God, His Son Jesus was given to die for you

to remove the stain of your sin. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sin and renews a right spirit within you. His mercy endures forever because His love for you is steadfast.

People: Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

***WORDS OF PROCEDURE AND PREPARATION**

(Come forward, up the center aisle, stopping to receive the sign of the cross with ashes, then returning to your seat down the side aisles. The ashes are imposed on the forehead in a reverent and safe way with a Q-tip, one per person, and the ancient words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.")

***THE BLESSING OF THE ASHES**

Pastor: The ashes in these bowls are from the burning of palms. If you desire, you are invited to participate in the sacred custom of receiving the imposition of ashes with the sign of the cross on your forehead. Let us pray.

People: **O Lord, let these ashes be a reminder to us that we are dust. May this be a mark of our repentance. Bless all those who receive these ashes this day. May they keep this Lenten season in preparation for the joy of celebrating the resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

THE MUSIC DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Hymn 425

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

Hymn 430

**My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?**

**He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!**

**Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.**

**Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these Themselves displease And 'gainst Him rise.**

**They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He To suff'ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.**

**In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.**

**Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!**

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

Hymn 611

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.**

**Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.**

**Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.**

**O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.**

***THE CONCLUDING COLLECT**

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

People: **His mercy endures forever!**

Pastor: Indeed Lord, we give You thanks and praise for Your great mercy. Though we are dust and ashes, You have given us the sign of the cross and reminded us that all of our sins have been blotted out and we shall be raised up in resurrected bodies to live with You forever.

People: **Send us into the world as people of mercy, to tell everyone what You have done for us through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***THE BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May the merciful God, who is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, empower you to live according to His good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

People: **Amen.**

***THE RECESSIONAL HYMN** “Renew Me, O Eternal Light” *Hymn 704*

**Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from Your holy face.**

**Remove the pow’r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.**

**Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.**

**Grant that I only You may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face, O Light eternal, through Your grace.**

THE PARTICIPANTS

The Preacher
The Celebrant/Liturgist
The Organist
The Bell Choir Director
The Ash Deacons
The Elder on Duty
The Lector
The Crucifer
The Acolytes
The Robing Leader
The Welcome Team Greeter
At the Welcome Center
The Welcome Team Ushers

The Rev. Charles T. Reich
The Rev. Brendon T. Moore
Nick Klemetson
Stephanie Klemetson
Scott Lehning, Carl Locke
Jennifer Smith
Fred Aceto
Mina Ullrich
Maxwell Ladner, Sylvia Ullrich
Leslie Ladner
Gale Seyfert
Carol Seyfert
Steve Hnatiuk, Dr. Ken Rogers,
Barry Walker, Chris Zinsmeister

CREDITS

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