SERMON SERIES honest repentance

Peace Lutheran Church

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Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

As We Gather Brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a season of prayerful and remorseful reflection. The forty days of Lent are set aside as a time to take a look at our walk with God. 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, instruction, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws life and hope from it. In our service today as a reminder of our mortality and our sin, ashes are imposed on the foreheads of believers. 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 Lenten season for us that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth. Attention Visitors We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion this evening. This holy meal is intended for Christians who acknowledge their need of God's forgiveness in their lives. The Bible teaches that Christ's body and blood are received with the elements of bread and wine and that Christians need to examine themselves before receiving this holy meal. (1Cor. 10 & 11). This meal further expresses a unity of faith as we gather at one table to receive the assurance of God's forgiveness through the body and blood of our Lord in the sacrament. We welcome baptized Christians to commune with us, those who believe and confess this same faith and understanding of the sacrament and of the Christian life. Persons who desire to receive grape juice select from the darker glasses. If you have any further questions concerning the sacrament, please ask to speak to the Pastor.

Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available. If you would like a hearing aid or large print bulletin please see an usher.

+ PREPARATION +

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this night 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.)

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.
(Cont'd)

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: 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.

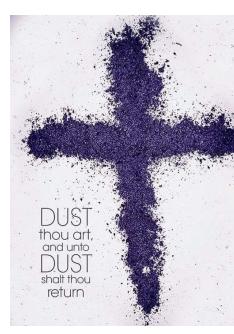
Pastor: To draw all to Yourself: to bless those who are instructed in the faith, to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all: 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. 5

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

- Pastor: Let us pray. O God, we beseech You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, and, of Your goodness, deign to bless + and sanctify these ashes to be a sign of our humility and Your pardon of our sins, that we, who acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return, may by Your mercy worthily receive both the pardon of all our sins and the reward which You promise to those who are penitent; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- People: Amen.

Please be seated.

If you desire to receive the penitent's outward sign of ashes, come forward at the direction of the ushers.





HYMN DURING IMPOSITION OF ASHES "Savior, When in Dust to Thee" 1 Sav Thee Low we bow the a dust to ior. when in 2 By Thy life of Thy help - less in - fant years, By 3 ByThine hour of By Thine ag - o dire de - spair, 4 By Thy By the sad se deep ex pir - ing groan, dor ing knee; When, to the skies re pen - tant, and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress want of By the cross, the nail, the thorn, prayer, ny dark By the a - bode pul - chral stone, vault whose lift our weep - ing eyes; О, by all Thy Scarce we In the wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys sav - age Pierc - ing By the gloom that spear, and tor - turing scorn, O, from earth to Held in vain the ris - ing God, pains and woe Suf-fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O veiled the skies O'er the dread-ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten heav'n re - stored, Might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing pen - i - ten - tial cry! from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry! fa - v'ring eye; Hear our turn а hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry! our to throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry! from Thy

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

- Pastor: "And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them." Genesis 3:21 We begin our Lenten repentance by confessing our sins and hearing God's promise of forgiveness. Holy and merciful Father,
- People: we confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
- Pastor: For our failure to love You with all our heart, mind, and strength,
- People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.
- Pastor: For our failure to love our neighbors as ourselves,
- People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.
- Pastor: For our holding on to grudges and refusing to forgive others as You have forgiven us,
- People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.
- Pastor: For our reluctance to share generously and joyfully the time, talent, and treasures You provide,
- People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.
- Pastor: For our suspicion of strangers which hinders our sharing of the Gospel,
- People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.
- Pastor: For our refusal to speak well of our neighbor and to put the best construction on our neighbor's words and actions.
- People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.
- Pastor: For our arrogance toward others, People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.

- Pastor: For all of the ways in which the confession of our lips does not show forth in our lives.
- People: Accept our repentance, O Lord. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,

- People: that we may show forth Your glory in the world.
- Pastor: By the cross and Passion of Your Son, our Lord,

People: bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

Pastor: 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.



+WORD+

- ¹¹ Because God has loosed my cord and humbled me, they have cast off restraint in my presence.
- ¹² On my right hand the rabble rise; they push away my feet;
- ¹³ They break up my path; they promote my calamity; they need no one to help them.
- ¹⁴ As through a wide breach they come; amid the crash they roll on.
- ¹⁵ Terrors are turned upon me; my honor is pursued as by the wind, and my prosperity has passed away like a cloud.
- ¹⁶ "And now my soul is poured out within me; days of affliction have taken hold of me.
- ¹⁷ The night racks my bones, and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest.
- ¹⁸ With great force my garment is disfigured; it binds me about like the collar of my tunic.
- ¹⁹ God has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM (*Psalm 51:1-13*)

Pastor:	Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
People:	Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
Pastor:	For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
People:	Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, 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; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
People:	Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
Pastor:	Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
People:	Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Pastor:	Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
People:	Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
Pastor:	Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.² 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR

"Touch Me With Ashes"



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, The 6th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

1 "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. 2 "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. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 5 "And 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. 6 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...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. 17 But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 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. 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

HYMN

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand, The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land; A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burdens of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus my eye at times can see The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me; And from my contrite heart with tears two wonders I confess; The wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face: Content to let the world go by to know no gain or loss, My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

MESSAGE

"Honest Repentance: Introduction"

Pastor Mike Schultze

+SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION+

CONFESSION OF FAITH (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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

PREFACE

Pastor: Though we are but dust and ashes, nevertheless our Lord took on our mortal frame, humbling Himself even to death that we might be made new. We now prepare our hearts to receive the body and blood of Jesus, that we might receive His forgiveness.

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

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

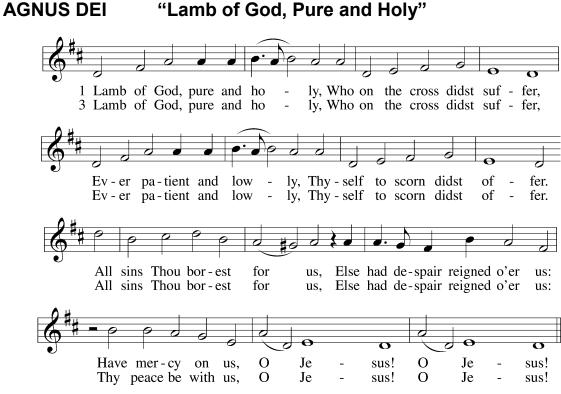
Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might 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

People: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. The whole earth is full of Your glory. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE 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.



THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His 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 is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

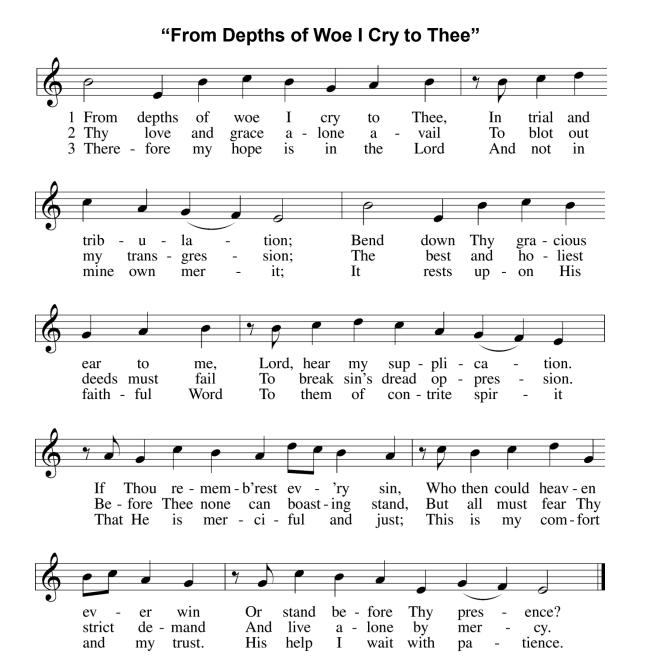
People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

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DISTRIBUTION HYMNS



"The Old Rugged Cross"

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain.

> Refrain So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see, For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, To pardon and sanctify me. *Refrain*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true; Its shame and reproach gladly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far away, Where His glory forever I'll share. Refrain





That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

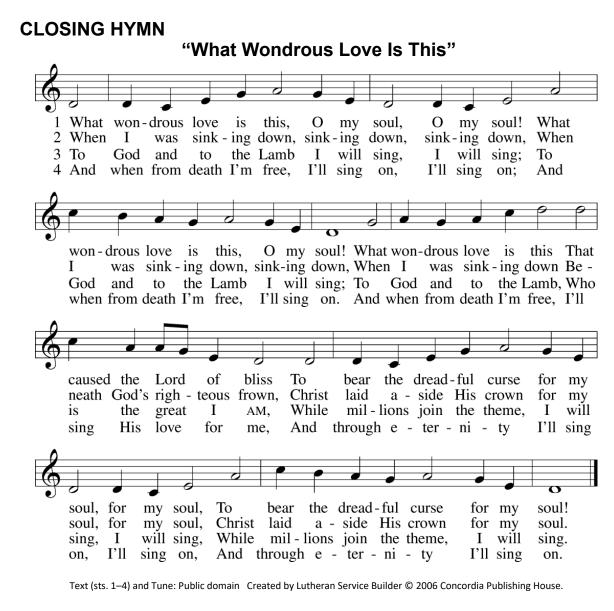
- Pastor: We have returned to You, Father, repenting in dust and ashes, washed in the cleansing waters of baptism, strengthened through the body and blood of Your Son, given for each of us. Grant, O Lord, that our Lenten fast prove a time of growth in our trust of You and our loving service to others. We pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go forth bearing the sign of Jesus' cross on your brow, the power of Jesus' cross in your everyday life, and the hope of Jesus' cross in your heart. Amen







The Offering plates have been placed at the back of the church to receive the offering as you leave in silence.

Thank you for worshipping with us.

Please join us for:

Lent & Easter Schedule

Soup Suppers (6:00 pm) ~ Lenten Services (7:00 pm)

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024 - Guest Preacher, Pastor Ben Mai Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024 - Guest Preacher, Pastor Paul Koch Wednesday, March 6, 2024 - Guest Preacher, Pastor Ernie Jeong Wednesday, March 13, 2024 - Guest Preacher, Pastor Matt Nolte Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - Guest Preacher Pastor Eric Mettala

Palm Sunday, March 24

9:00am Traditional Worship 11:00am Traditional Worship

Maundy Thursday, March 28

7:00 pm Worship Service with Holy Communion

Good Friday, March 29

12:00 noon Service of Reflection and Remembrance 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service of Darkness

The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday, March 31