



**The  
Hands  
of the  
Passion**



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

February 17, 2021



# Ash Wednesday

*The service begins without pre-service music, in silence. Please respect the silence of your fellow worshippers. Read the following section from Scripture below and meditate upon it to prepare your heart.*

## **PSALM 51**

*For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.*

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

<sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. <sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

<sup>18</sup> May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

## INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live: “Throw off all the transgressions you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in anyone’s death. This is the declaration of the Lord God. So repent and live!” EZEKIEL 18:31-32

Therefore God in his mercy has sent his Son, the Christ, to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve: “He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

During the forty days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death: “My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, in hope that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:10-11

As disciples of Christ Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and *commit yourself to this struggle*. Let us be still. Let us be quiet. “The Lord is in his holy temple; let the whole earth be silent in his presence.”

HABAKKUK 2:20

*Time for reflection and self-examination.*

## HYMN

“In Adam We Have All Been One”

*Christian Worship* #396:1-3

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> In Adam we have all<br/>    been one,<br/>One huge rebellious man;<br/>We all have fled that<br/>    evening voice<br/>That sought us as we ran.</p> <p><b>2</b> We fled our God,<br/>    and losing him,<br/>We lost our brother, too.<br/>Each singly sought and<br/>    claimed his own;<br/>Each man his brother slew.</p> | <p><b>3</b> But your strong love,<br/>    it sought us still<br/>And sent your only Son<br/>That we might hear<br/>    his shepherd-voice<br/>And, hearing him, be one.</p> |
|--|---|

## CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Almighty God:

**C: Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.  
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

P: If you, Lord, would count our iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

**C: But with you there is pardon, so you are feared.**

P: I wait for the Lord. My soul waits, and in his word I have put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.

**C: More than watchmen wait for the morning.**

*Silence for self-reflection.*

P: Have mercy on us, Lord. We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

**C: Forgive me.**

P: We confess to you, O Lord, all our past unfaithfulness—the pride, the hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

**C: Forgive me.**

P: We confess to you, O Lord, our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people, our anger when

our selfish aims are denied, and our coveting of those more fortunate than ourselves.

**C: Forgive me.**

P: We confess to you, O Lord, our love of worldly stuff and comforts and evils. We confess our dishonesty in daily life and work.

**C: Forgive me.**

P: We confess our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us. Forgive us, O Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustices and cruelty:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all false judgments, for unloving thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us:

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: For all we think or say or do that is at variance with your will:

**C: Hear us, O Lord, for your mercy is great!**

## **HYMN**

*"In Adam We Have All Been One"*  
*Christian Worship #396: 4-6*

4 O Savior, when we  
loved you not,  
You loved and saved us all;  
O great good  
Shepherd of mankind,  
Oh, hear us when we call.

6 Then shall our song  
united rise  
To your eternal throne,  
Where with the Father  
ever more  
And Spirit you are one.

5 Send us your Spirit;  
teach us truth  
To purge our vanity.  
From fancied wisdom,  
self-sought ways,  
O Savior, set us free.

## **FORGIVENESS**

P: Wait confidently for the Lord, because with the Lord there is mercy. With him there is abundant redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all its guilt. *PSALM 130:7-8*

By the authority of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Hymn**

“Chief of Sinners, Though I Be”

*Christian Worship #385:1-3*

- 1 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!**
- 2 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.**
- 3 Only Jesus can impart Comfort to a 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.**

### **First Lesson**

2 Samuel 12:1-13

*David confesses: I have sinned against the Lord.*

The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.<sup>2</sup> The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle,<sup>3</sup> but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

<sup>4</sup> “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a

meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”<sup>5</sup> David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die!<sup>6</sup> He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.’<sup>8</sup> I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.<sup>9</sup> Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.<sup>10</sup> Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

<sup>11</sup> “This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight.’<sup>12</sup> You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.”

<sup>13</sup> Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.”

## PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 51a

*The prayer of David after Nathan confronted him.*

### *Refrain*



God, have mer - cy on me, a sin-ner,



have mer - cy on me, O Lord.





Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? <sup>4</sup> Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

<sup>5</sup> When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. <sup>6</sup> Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

<sup>7</sup> About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

<sup>9</sup> Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." <sup>10</sup> At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. <sup>11</sup> Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Joel 2:13

*Read together.*

**Rend 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.**

## GOSPEL

Matthew 27:27-31

*The soldiers mock the Christ.*

<sup>27</sup> Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. <sup>30</sup> They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and

again. <sup>31</sup> After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

## **Hymn**

“Chief of Sinners, Though I Be”

*Christian Worship* 385:4-5

- 4 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.  
Safe with him in earthly strife,  
I await the heav’nly life.**
- 5 Strengthen me, O gracious Lord,  
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.**

## **Sermon**

**Text: Matthew 27:27-31**

*“Hands of Brutality”*

## **OFFERING**

*The members of Saint Peter Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord’s work in this community and around the world. May God bless us as we do his work! Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry. To give an offering with your smartphone, text “givesplc” to 77977 and click on the link that you receive. Offerings can be given by credit card, debit card, or your bank account. They can also be mailed to our building.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & INTERCESSIONS**

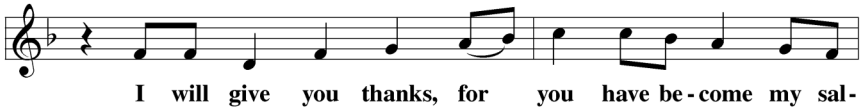
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Sacrament

*Saint Peter Lutheran Church practices close communion. This means that we invite anyone who is a member of a WELS or ELS congregation to join us for the sacrament, but we ask everyone else to remain in the pews. We do this not to make a judgment about you or to deny that you are a Christian. We are following God's Word that says: "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord," (1 CORINTHIANS 11:27) and "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf" (1 CORINTHIANS 10:17). If you have any questions about this, one of our pastors would be happy to further discuss this with you.*

- P: Your Savior invites you to come to his table and receive his holy Sacrament.
- C: Let us receive his true body and blood under the bread and wine as he has said.**
- P: Your Savior invites you to receive the blessings he pours out.
- C: Through his body and blood, he gives us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.**
- P: Let us join in the song of saints and angels as we prepare our hearts.



### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Lord God, you are worthy of thanksgiving from all people! You created the world and its inhabitants in your compassion, and you have saved us through your mercy.

We give you thanks because your Son, Jesus Christ, put on our human nature to give us life through your divine nature. He delivered us from our sinful state. He restored us from our fall. He forgave our debts. He justified us from sin. He enlightened our minds. He conquered our enemies, and has raised us from our lowliness through your abundant mercy.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, remembering this great mystery of the passion, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive our sins, and fill us with the hope of the resurrection and new life in heaven. Praise, honor, thanksgiving, and adoration be

to your living and life-giving name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**P:** 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, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**C: Amen.**

### **AGNUS DEI**



**C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the**



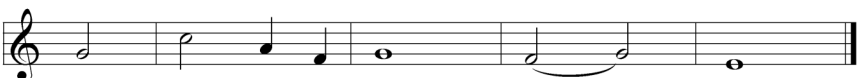
**world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you**



**take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.**



**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the**



**world; grant us your peace. A - men.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*“Abide with Me”*

*Christian Worship #588*

- 1 Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!**
- 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;  
Earth’s joys grow dim; its glories pass away.  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me!**
- 3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
But kind and good, with healing in thy wings,  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev’ry plea;  
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.**
- 4 Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,  
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,  
Thou hast not left me oft as I left thee.  
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.**
- 5 I need thy presence ev’ry passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter’s pow’r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!**
- 6 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if thou abide with me.**
- 7 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heav’n’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!**

## CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

**P:** Almighty God, we are dust and to dust we shall return, yet even in ashes and dust there is hope. Marked with the sign of the cross in our Baptism, we thank you for the gifts you have given us through this Holy Supper; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

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

**C:** Amen.

## The Rite of Ashes

### THE RITE OF ASHES

*During the singing of the anthem, the worshippers can follow the directions of the ushers to the front of the sanctuary from the outside aisles. At the front of the church the head of the family will draw a cross with ashes on a sackcloth banner to symbolize their recognition that their sins and human frailties are placed on Christ. An usher will provide a glove for each family for the sake of limiting exposure and easy clean-up.*



*While you take your ashes, the pastor will say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Jesus Christ is your life." When you are done, please exit the sanctuary and remain quiet until all worshippers have finished. When the anthem ends, we will finish in silence. There will be no post-service music.*

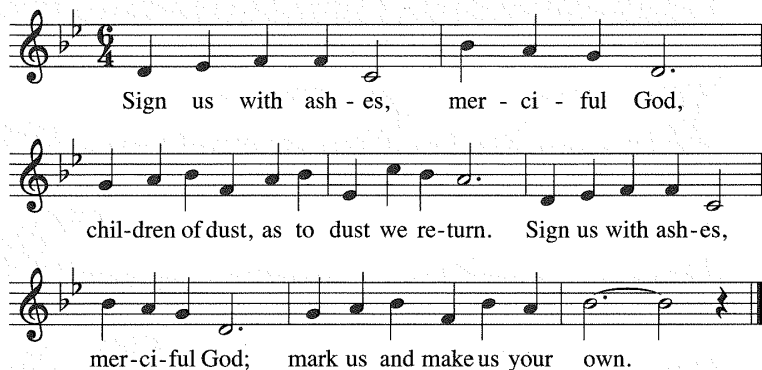
*The banner will hang in our sanctuary until Good Friday to remind us of our need for and commitment to repentance.*

### ANTHEM (NEXT PAGE)

"Sign Us With Ashes"

Congregation sings Refrain; Vocalists sing verses

## Refrain (Congregation):



Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God,  
chil-dren of dust, as to dust we re-turn. Sign us with ash-es,  
mer-ci-ful God; mark us and make us your own.

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## Verses (Vocalists):

- 1 Surely, you alone can save us. You pay our price with precious blood.  
Reaching through your great compassion, you lift up your people  
with love.

### Refrain

- 2 Surely, you alone uphold us. You give us strength for all our needs.  
Shielding with a father's favor, you bless us with pardon and peace.

### Refrain

- 3 Surely, you alone can heal us. Yours is the will to make us whole.  
Soothing with a mother's kindness, the contrite of heart, you  
console.

### Refrain

- 4 Surely, you alone can free us. You break the bonds of guilt and sin.  
Bracing, till we walk uprightly, you bolster our hope once again.

### Refrain

- 5 Surely, you alone refine us. You give us grace for lives made new,  
forging, through your fire and radiance, a sacrifice worthy for you.

### Refrain

- 6 Surely, you alone redeem us. You fill our dust with holy breath.  
Bursting from the grave in glory, you rise from the ashes of death.

### Refrain

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