



**"THE SEMBLANCE OF LEGALITY"**

Ash Wednesday

# **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Bangor, WI

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*March 2, 2022*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday begins the Christian's Lenten journey with a reminder of our mortality and a call to repentance. The ancient practice of imposing ashes on the foreheads of Christians gives Ash Wednesday its name; the church father Tertullian (c. 160-215 AD) writes of the practice as a public expression of repentance and of our human frailty that stands in need of Christ. Repentance over sin and our need for forgiveness are the primary emphases of worship on Ash Wednesday. This focus is distinct from the other midweek services offered during Lent, which focus on the historical account of Jesus' suffering and death.

## **PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP**

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon. Remind me tonight that I am but dust and ashes without you and my Savior Jesus. In his name I pray. Amen.

## **FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

## **THANK OFFERING**

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.



# THE CRUCIAL HOURS

*The Crucial Hours ponders key words and moments from the account of Jesus' passion that demonstrate the thorough completeness of his saving work for us, the breadth and depth of his love for us, and the strength of his union with us.*

## OPENING HYMN

*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* | 98 (1,3,5)



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On your ho - ly  
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see your  
5 Grant that I your pas - sion view With re - pent - ant



pas - sion; With your Spir - it me en - dow  
pas - sion, But its cause to me make known  
griev - ing. Let me not bring shame to you



For such med - i - ta - tion. Grant that I in love  
And its ter - mi - na - tion. Ah! I al - so and  
By un - ho - ly liv - ing. How could I re - fuse



and faith May the im - age cher - ish Of your suf -  
my sin Wrought your deep af - flic - tion; This in - deed  
to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful pleas - ure Since for me



f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.  
the cause has been Of your cru - ci - fix - ion.  
God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out meas - ure?

*please stand*

## INTRODUCTION TO LENT

M: 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. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 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. As disciples of the Lord 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 yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination. (*silent self-examination*)

## CONFESSION

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

**C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

**C: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

M: We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.

**C: We have not been true to the mind of Christ.**

M: We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

**C: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives –**

M: We confess to you, Lord, our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people,

**C: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, our love of worldly goods and comforts,

**C: Our dishonesty in daily life and work,**

M: We confess to you, Lord, our failure to show the faith that is in us,

**C: Our negligence in worship and prayer,**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done.

**C: For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others,

**C: For our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for what we think, say, or do that is at variance with your will,

**C: For failure to think, say, or do as you have commanded us,**

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

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

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, in the name of the Father, Son ✚ and Holy Spirit, I forgive you all your sins. You are a new creation! *(continued...)*

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 the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*be seated*

**CHOIR**

*As We Gather at Your Table*

*As we gather at your table, as we listen to your Word,  
help us know, O God, your presence: let our hearts and minds be stirred.*

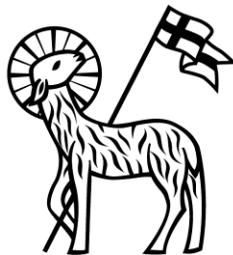
*Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.*

*Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.*

*Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.*

*Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.*

*There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.*



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# The Word

## FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 12:1-13

<sup>1</sup>So the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came and told him this:

There were two men in a city. One was rich and one poor. <sup>2</sup>The rich man had a large number of flocks and herds. <sup>3</sup>The poor man did not own anything except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He raised it so that it grew up together with him and his children. It ate from his food and drank from his cup. It slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. <sup>4</sup>When a traveler came to the rich man, the rich man was unwilling to take an animal from his flock or from his herd to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. So he took the lamb from the poor man and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

<sup>5</sup>David's anger flared up against that man. He said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this is as good as dead. <sup>6</sup>In place of that lamb, he will restore four lambs, because he did this and had no pity."

<sup>7</sup>Nathan told David, "You are the man. This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says."

I anointed you king over Israel. I rescued you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup>I gave the house of your master to you, and I gave the wives of your master into your embrace. I gave you the house of Israel and the house of Judah. If this was too little, I would have added even more. <sup>9</sup>Why have you despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in his eyes? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword. You have taken his wife as your own wife. You have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup>So now the sword will not depart from your house forever, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

<sup>11</sup>This is what the Lord says. Look! I am raising up disaster against you from your own house. Right in front of your eyes I will take your wives and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie down with your wives in the sight of the sun.

<sup>12</sup>Because you acted in secret, I will do this in front of all Israel in broad daylight.

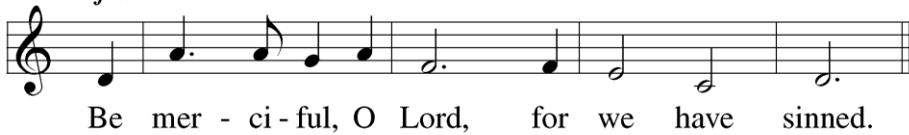
<sup>13</sup>David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

Nathan said to David, "The Lord himself has put away your sin. You will not die."

## PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 51a, p.86

### *Refrain*



### *Psalm tone*



Wash away all my iniquity,\*  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,\*  
and my sin is always before me.

### ***Refrain***

Against you, you only, have I sinned\*  
and done what is evil in your sight.

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

Hide your face from my sins,\*  
and blot out all my iniquity.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,\*  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**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.**

### ***Refrain***

## SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

<sup>5:20b</sup> We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

<sup>6:1</sup> As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. <sup>2</sup>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!

*please stand*

## GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

<sup>9</sup>Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: <sup>10</sup>"Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.'

<sup>13</sup>"However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

<sup>14</sup>"I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."





1 He stood be - fore the court On trial in - stead of  
 2 These are the crimes that tell The tale of hu - man  
 3 The sen - tence must be passed, The un - known pris - 'ner  
 4 Shall we be judged and tried? In Christ our trial is



us; He met its pow'r to hurt, Con - demned to  
 guilt; Our sins, our death, our hell— On these the  
 killed; The price is paid at last, The law of  
 done; We live, for he has died, Our con - dem -



face the cross— Our King, ac - cused of treach - er -  
 case is built. To this world's pow'rs the Lord stays  
 God ful - filled. He takes our blame, and from that  
 na - tion gone. In Christ are we both dead and



y; Our God, a - bused for blas - phe - my!  
 dumb. The guilt is ours; no an - swers come.  
 day Th' ac - cu - ser's claim is wiped a - way.  
 raised, A - live and free— his name be praised!

SERMON

Luke 22:66

**The Semblance of Legality**

<sup>66</sup>At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.

## OFFERING

*"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:6,7).*

*please stand*

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## *The Sacrament*

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we also bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. See p.156 in the hymnal for preparation.*

M: Our compassionate and almighty God calls us in mercy to repentance and renewal this Lenten season. The gospel is the source and power of that renewal. Therefore, with recognition of our need for forgiveness and God's gracious gift of the gospel in the body and blood of his Son in the Sacrament, we approach his table with repentant and thankful hearts.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

(no musical intro)

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.

*be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

*"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:16,17).*

*Please follow the directions of the ushers during distribution.*



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Savior, When in Dust to You | 124



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you Low we bow in  
 2 By your help - less in - fant years, By your life of  
 3 By your hour of dire de - spair, By your ag - o -  
 4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



hom - age due, When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
 want and tears, By your days of deep dis - tress  
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; Oh, by all your  
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -  
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that  
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, Oh, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
 te - rious hour Of th' in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, oh,  
 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



from your throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 turn a fav - 'ring eye, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 to our hum - ble sigh, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 from your throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to your ta - ble, For weak and  
 2 Oh, grant that I in man - ner wor - thy May now trust  
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
 4 Oh, let me loathe all sin for - ev - er As death and  
 5 Your heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners



wea - ry is my soul; O Je - sus, you a - lone are  
 sole - ly in your Word, And, con - scious of the sins be -  
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet you your lamb will ban - ish  
 poi - son to my soul, That I through will - ful sin - ning  
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to you in faith are

*Refrain*



a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole.  
 fore me, Look on - ly un - to you, O Lord.  
 nev - er, Nor will your faith - ful - ness de - part. Lord, may your  
 nev - er May see your judg - ment take its toll!  
 turn - ing; So let me, too, come trust - ing - ly.



bod - y and your blood Be for my soul the high - est 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 your guest.  
*Refrain*

8 By faith I call your holy table  
 The testament of your deep love,  
 For by your gift I now am able  
 To know the heart of God above.  
*Refrain*

7 You here will find a heart most lowly  
 That feels unworthy in your sight,  
 That duly weeps o'er sin, yet solely  
 Your merit pleads, as it is right.  
*Refrain*

9 What higher gift can we inherit?  
 It is faith's bond and solid base;  
 It is the strength of heart and spirit,  
 The covenant of hope and grace.  
*Refrain*

10 This feast is manna, wealth abounding  
Unto the poor, to weak ones pow'r,  
To angels joy, to hell confounding,  
And life for me in death's dark hour.  
**Refrain**

11 Your body, giv'n for me, O Savior,  
Your blood, which you for me have shed—  
These are my life and strength forever;  
By them my hungry soul is fed.  
**Refrain**

12 With you, Lord, I am now united;  
I live in you and you in me.  
No sorrow fills my soul; delighted,  
It finds its peace on Calvary.  
**Refrain**

13 Who can condemn me now? For surely  
The Lord is near, who justifies.  
No hell I fear, and thus securely  
With Jesus I to heaven rise.  
**Refrain**

14 Though death may threaten with disaster,  
It cannot rob me of my cheer,  
For he who is of death the master  
With help and strength is always near.  
**Refrain**

15 My heart has now become your dwelling,  
O blessed, holy Trinity.  
With angels I, your praises telling,  
Shall live in joy eternally.  
**Refrain**

*please stand*

## **PRAYER**

M: O God, as you called the Israelites to repent of their sins, you have now called us once again to renewal. Never let us lose our way. Guide us on our Lenten journey that we may arrive at the celebration of the resurrection of your Son, ready once more to rejoice in our passage with Christ from death to life, from despair to hope, trusting solely in the mercies of Christ, our Lord, in whose name we join to pray the prayer he taught us:

## **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.**

## **BLESSING**

**M:** May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us.

**C:** **May God bless us still so that all the ends of the earth will fear him. Amen.**

*be seated*

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* | **98** (6)

**Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from you, Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav'n above Sing your praise forever.**

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## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Brock Groth

**Accompanist**

Carol Stuebs

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