AS WE GATHER - The Bible is a dust-filled book, with references to dust at the beginning in Genesis all the way to Revelation, the last book of Scripture. In Old Testament times, dust or ashes placed on the head was a sign of sorrow and mourning. Dust also has been associated with the grave and death. The word of the Lord first spoken to Adam echoes in our minds: “You are dust.” Ash Wednesday reminds us of our mortality but also reminds us that in His great love, God has "dusted us off" through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ for our sins—the truth that is at the heart of the message of Lent.

PRESERVICES MUSIC  “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”  by Johann Gottfried Walther

OPENING HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

1 Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
2 Make me see Your great distress, anguish, and affliction,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see Your passion,
4 Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.

With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
Let me not bring shame to You By un holy living,

Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought Your deep affliction;
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure

(continued)
INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES
P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger,
C nor discipline me in Your wrath.
P Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;
C heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.
P My soul also is greatly troubled.
C But You, O Lord—how long?
P Turn, O Lord, deliver my life;
C save me for the sake of Your steadfast love.
P The Lord has heard my plea;
C the Lord accepts my prayer.

INTRODUCTION
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 Lenten tide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth. 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.
C Amen.
IMPOSITION OF ASHES

[Those who desire to receive ashes come forward. Congregation may be seated during the imposition of ashes.]

CHORAL SELECTION

"Remember That You Are Dust"

HYMN

When in the Hour of Deepest Need

1 When in the hour of deepest need We know not where to look for aid; When days and nights of anxious thought No help or counsel yet have brought, God, we cry for rescue in our misery.

2 Then is our comfort this alone That we may meet before Your throne; To You, O faithful one, Lord, is greater, Our Saviour and our advocate.

3 For You have promised, Lord, to heed Your children's cries in time of need Through Him whose name awoes before You lay; For sorely tried, cast down, we stand, Perplexed by fears on ev'ry hand.

4 And so we come, O God, today And all our

5. O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face; 6. So we with all our hearts each day Absolve us through Your boundless grace. Be with us in our anguish still; Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

To You our glad thanksgiving pay, Then walk obedient to Your Word, And now and ever praise You, Lord.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Let us now confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C Lord, to You I make confession: I have sinned and gone astray, I have multiplied transgression, Chosen for myself my way. Led by You to see my errors, Lord, I tremble at Your terrors.

Men: Yet, though conscience' voice appall me, Father, I will seek Your face; Though Your child I dare not call me, Yet receive me in Your grace. Do not for my sins forsake me; Let Your wrath not overtake me.

Women: For Your Son has suffered for me, Giv'n Himself to rescue me, Died to save me and restore me, Reconciled and set me free. Jesus' cross alone can vanquish These dark fears and soothe this anguish.

C Lord, on You I cast my burden—Sink it in the deepest sea! Let me know Your gracious pardon, Cleanse me from iniquity. Let Your Spirit leave me never; Make me only Yours forever.
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.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Let us pray.

All: Almighty and Everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joel 2:12–19

12"Yet even now," declares the LORD,
  "return to me with all your heart,
  with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
  13and 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.

14Who 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?

15Blow the trumpet in Zion;
  consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
  16gather 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.

17Between 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?"

18Then the LORD became jealous for his land
  and had pity on his people.
19 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.

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

EPISTLE LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

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.
1 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. 3 We put no
obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as
servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions,
hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;
6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; 7 by truthful
speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and
for the left; 8 through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as
impostors, and yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we
live; as punished, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet
making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

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

VERSE Joel 2:13b
C  Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and
abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P  The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.
C  Glory to You, O Lord.
   1 [Jesus said:] "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.

(continued)
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. 

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.

Jesus said: ] "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.

SERMON HYMN

Savior, When in Dust to Thee

1 Savior, when in dust to Thee, Low we bow the a-
2 By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of
dor-ing knee; When, re-pen-tant, to the skies
want and tears, By Thy days of deep dist-

3 By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine ag-o-

4 By Thy deep expir-ing groan, By the sad se-
pul-chral stone, By the vault whose dark a-bode

Scarcely lift our weep- ing eyes; O, by all Thy
In the sav-age wil-der-ness, By the dread, mys-
Piercing spear, and tor-turing scorn, By the gloom that
Held in vain the ris-ing God, O, from earth to

pains and woe Suf-fered once for us be-low, Bend-ing
re-te-rious hour Of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r, Turn, O
veiled the skies O'er the dread-ful sac-rif-ice, Lis-ten
heav'n re-store-d, Might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord, Bend-ing

(continued)
from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen-i-tent-tial cry!

turn a fa-v'ring eye; Hear our pen-i-tent-tial cry!
to our hum-ble sigh; Hear our pen-i-tent-tial cry!

SÉRMON

“ASHES”

GENÈSE CRED

I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in One Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made Man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee” by Thomas Janson

OFFERTORY

On my heart im-print Your im-age, Bless-ed Je-sus, King of grace,

That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev-er may Your work e-rase;

Let the clear in-scrip-tion be: Je-sus, cru-ci-fied for me,

Is my life, my hope's foun-da-tion, And my glo-ry and sal-va-tion!
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us. God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil’s kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
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 accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross. In dust and ashes, we beg forgiveness and find in Christ our only hope of salvation. In Him alone is the promise of life everlasting. So, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify His glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P  Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. At the instruction of our Lord Jesus, You bless us during this time of Lenten discipline with the joy of drawing us closer to You, that we may be Your hand in helping the needy and increase in a life of prayer. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.  C  Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P  As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C  Amen.  Come, Lord Jesus.

P  O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.
SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.
P Let us share this peace with one another.

(People greet one another saying: “Peace be with you. And also with you.”)

[Remain standing]

LAGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

1 Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
   Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.

All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:

Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

(Reminder: gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are also available.)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

1 Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
2 Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in
3 Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
4 O all embracing Mercy, O ever open Door,

How ever great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.
His blessed angels gather 'Round the heav'nly gates.
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er?

How ever long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be given,
No question will be asked us How often we have come;
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,

(continued)
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean to-day.
A future 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.

**Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness**

1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress; Midst flaming worlds, in deemed, no debt to pay; Fully absolved through mercy seat of God Pleads for the captives' on the ocean shore, Thou hast for all a

2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay; Fully absolved through mercy seat of God Pleads for the captives' on the ocean shore, Thou hast for all a

3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head. these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame. liberty, Was also shed in love for me. ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.

4 Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands up... these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head. these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame. liberty, Was also shed in love for me. ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.

5. When from the dust of death I rise 6. Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
To claim my mansion in the skies, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
This then shall be my only plea: For me, and all Thy hands have made,
Jesus hath lived and died for me. An everlasting ransom paid.

**Chief of Sinners Though I Be**

1 Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me, Died that I might live on high, heav'n's above, Deep'er than the depths of sea, wound-ed heart, Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, all to me; All my wants to Him are known, (continued)
Lives that I might never die. As the branch is
Lasting as eternity! Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sorrows are His own. He sustains the

to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
walk with God In the way that Enoch trod,
hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

5. 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.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING
P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endures forever.
P We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift,
and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith
toward You and in fervent love toward one another, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.
C Amen.

BENEDICTION
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious
to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace. Numbers 6:24-26
C Amen.

DISMISSAL
P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN
Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go

1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
4 Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak;

(continued)
Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Kin - gship with Him His ser - vants gain;
This world of time to con - se -crate,
Proph - ets are we whose deeds pro - claim.

Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
With Christ the Ser - vant - Lord of all,
This world of sin by grace to heal,
Christ's truth in love that we may be.

Christ in our hearts, the world's true king,
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign,
Christ's world in Christ to re - cre - ate,
Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.

5. We are the Church; Christ bids us show
That in His Church all nations find
Their hearth and home where Christ restores
True peace, true love to all mankind.


ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

"Sortie"

by George Blake

From Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.
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WE WISH TO THANK the following for their participation in our worship service this evening:

Acolyte ................................................................. Noah Wohletz
Altar Guild ......................................................... Marcella Marshall & Dorothy Vandre
Communion Assistant .......................................... Bill Milliken
Greeter ................................................................. Teri Cueva
Organist / Music Director .................................... Beth Buss
Special Music: Christ Choiristers, Beth Buss, Director
Ushers ................................................................. *Phil Vandre, Naomi Kettner, Bob Sees

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13
LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES will be on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM.

**Lent Series: Traditions of Lent**

Description: For centuries, Christians have observed Lent, a period of repentance and solemn contemplation before Holy Week and Easter. During these centuries, a number of Lenten traditions have developed. Many of these are still followed, some have become less common. This Lent we will be discussing the “Traditions of Lent,” looking at the origin of Lent traditions and seeing what they teach us about sin, grace and the Passion of Jesus Christ.

March 6: (Ash Wednesday) ........................................ Ashes - Genesis 3:19

March 13: .......................................................... Fasting – Matthew 6:16-18

March 20: .......................................................... Penitence – Ps. 51:10

March 27: .......................................................... Foot Washing – John 13:3-15

April 3: .......................................................... The Veil – 1 Corinthians 13:12

April 10: .......................................................... Palms – Philippians 2:10-11

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Meals will be served at **5:30 PM** with the following serving:

March 6 (Ash Wednesday) ................................................................. Elders
March 13 .................................................................................. Ladies of Christ
March 20 .................................................................................. Education Committee
March 27 .................................................................................. Worship Committee

Fried Chicken

April 3 .................................................................................. Property Committee
April 10 .................................................................................. Church Council
April 21 .................................................................................. Fellowship / Outreach Committee

Hosting the Easter Breakfast (8:30 AM)

Please let Marcella know what your menu will be for inclusion in the bulletin. Don't forget about Thrivent and applying for funds for your Lenten dinner. You will need to know your plans for funds that you raise with the free-will offering. Just go online at Thrivent.com and use your member account number to apply under Making A Difference/Thrivent Action Teams.