



# HOLY COMMUNION with Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2010 + 12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

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*Central - in the heart of the city, welcomes all people to celebrate, discover and share the love of Christ*

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## ***Jesus is a home for the homeless poor***

*Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.*

## GATHERING

### SILENCE

*The assembly gathers in silence. The carillon calls the assembly to worship.*

### HYMN

*(hymn) 602*

*"Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved"*

### REETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** ...one God, now and forever.

**All** Amen.

## WORD

### FIRST READING

*The fast that God chooses*

Isaiah 58:1-12

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts.*

*God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to a dramatic improvement of their condition.*

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>"Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.  
If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

The word of the Lord.

**AD** **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING** *Now is the day of salvation* 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.*

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

<sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin,  
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him,  
we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

<sup>2</sup>For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

<sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way,  
so that no fault may be found with our ministry,

<sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way:  
through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,

<sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;

<sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,

<sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God;

with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;

<sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

**AI** Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL VERSE**

We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind,  
 slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.  
 slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Text: Gracia Grindal, based on Joel 2:13  
 Music: KAS DZIEDAJA, Latvian folk tune  
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**GOSPEL**

*The practice of faith*

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**P** The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**AI** Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples:

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever 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.

<sup>16</sup>And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**AI** Praise to you O Christ.

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*



prayer



fasting



acts of love

## SERMON

*silence for reflection*

Pastor D. Foy Christopherson

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

*(hymn)* 599

## INVITATION TO LENT

- P** Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter a time of remembering Jesus’ passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God’s mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent – self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

*The assembly kneels or sits.  
Silence is kept for reflection  
and self-examination.*



## CONFESSION OF SIN

*(front)* p. 252

- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**P** Most holy and merciful God,  
**AI** **we confess to you and to one another,  
and before the whole company of heaven,  
that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault,  
by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

- P** We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**AI** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

- P** We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**AI** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

- P** Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**AI** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

- P** Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**AI** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

- P** Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**AI** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

- P** Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**AI** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Members of the assembly are invited to come forward and kneel or stand to receive the sign of ashes.

This psalm of lament is sung during the imposition of ashes. The verses are chanted by the choir. The assembly joins on the refrain.



**P** Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**All** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

**P** Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**All** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

**P** Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**All** **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(front) p. 254

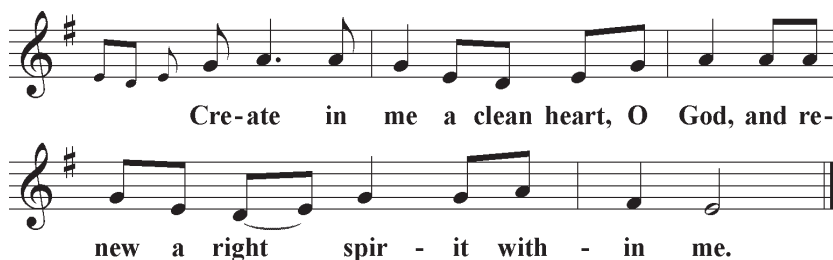
Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:

**P** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

## PSALM 51

**Choir** Refrain

**All** **Refrain**



**Choir** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | loving kindness;\*  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.  
Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,\*  
and cleanse me | from my sin.

For I know | my transgressions,\*  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.  
Against you only | have I sinned\*  
and done what is evil | in your sight.

**All** **Refrain**

**Choir** And so you are justified | when you speak\*  
and upright | in your judgment.  
Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,\*  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,\*  
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.  
Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;\*  
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.

**All** **Refrain**

**Choir** Make me hear of | joy and gladness,\*  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.  
Hide your face | from my sins,\*  
and blot out all | my iniquities.

Give me the joy of your saving | help again,\*  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,\*  
and sinners shall re- | turn to you.

**All** **Refrain**

**Choir** Deliver me from | death, O God,\*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of | my salvation.  
Open my | lips, O Lord,\*  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,\*  
but you take no delight | in burnt-offerings.  
The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit,\*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.

**All** **Refrain**

**Choir** Be favorable and gra- | cious to Zion,\*  
and rebuild the walls | of Jerusalem.  
Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,  
with burnt offerings and oblations;  
Then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

**All** **Refrain**

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit,  
and the presiding minister continues:*

**P** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**All** **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**P** By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**All** **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

**P** Almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen us in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

*The service continues with the prayers of intercession.*

*each petition concludes:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**All** **hear our prayer.**

## MEAL

*The assembly is invited to share  
God's peace with one another.*

### PEACE

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All** **And also with you.**

### GATHERING OF GIFTS

*The offering is received. While the offering is received lay ministers prepare the table.*

*The assembly stands as the procession reaches the chancel.*

"Wilt Thou Forgive?"

*John Hilton, ed. K. Lee Scott  
text: John Donne*

"Create in Me" (7:00)

*J. A. Freylinghausen, arr. Paul Christiansen  
text: Psalm 51:9-10*

### Offertory Prayer

**A** Together let us pray.



*All are invited to receive these gifts of God.*

*Communion at this service is served kneeling (as you are able) by individual chalices around the communion rail.*

*Children are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.*

*Grape juice and gluten-free bread are available upon request.*

**AD** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things.  
 Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.  
 With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives  
 to the care and redemption of all that you have made,  
 for the sake of him who gave himself for us,  
 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**AD** **And also with you.**

*The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:*

**Lord's Prayer (1975)**

**AD** **Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
 now and forever. Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to the Table**

**Communion**

*"Lamb of God"*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Prayer after Communion**

**A** Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days.  
 Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who  
 are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and  
 above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son,  
 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**AD** **Amen.**

*silence for reflection*



## SENDING

### BLESSING

☐ God grant you endurance in suffering  
and the hope of sharing the glory of God.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

(hymn) 811

### DISMISSAL

☐ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly departs in silence.*

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## SERVING TODAY

Pastor Rick Nelson *presiding*  
Pastor D. Foy Christopherson *preaching*  
Pastor Kristen Jacobson,  
Pastor Judith Stone,  
Pastor Chuck Anderson *assisting clergy*

Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer *assisting minister, 12:00*  
Jane Lien *organist, 12:00*  
Laura Holst *soloist, 12:00*  
Erica Doss *reader, 12:00*

Kris Stedje *assisting minister, 7:00*  
Mark Sedio *organist, 7:00*  
Central Choir *choir, 7:00*  
Lois Wolff *reader, 7:00*

### WELCOME!

*Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. We invite guests to complete the “Welcome to Central” card found in the pew racks and leave it with an usher or place it in the offering plate.*

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**CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*in the heart of the city, welcomes all people  
to celebrate, discover and share the love of Christ*  
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