

ASH WEDNESDAY

LENTEN THEME: A Lenten Journey with Joseph

TONIGHT'S THEME: The Genesis of Joseph

March 02, 2022

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Ps. 118:24; 113:3; Joel 2;13; Matt 16:24; Is, 53:5

L: This is the day which the Lord has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

L: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

L: Jesus said: "If any man would come after Me,

C: let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

L: Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

C: He was bruised for our iniquities.

L: From the rising of the. Sun to its setting,

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**ALL: 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.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

L: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we wear the ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of the consequences of our fallen state. But our ashes are shaped in the form of the cross which our Savior Jesus bore to purchase our salvation giving us confidence to approach His throne in expectation of His grace and mercy. So let us confess our sins those we know and those which we have forgotten and silently confess our shame before almighty God.

(Moment of silent prayer)

L: Lord God, heavenly Father,

C: We have been unfaithful stewards. We live in a state of sin among a people of sin.

Without Your grace, we perish. Have mercy on us according to your loving kindness. Breathe new life into us once more, so we might be the people you created us to be. Restore unto us the joy of your salvation that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Ezekiel 36:25-27

L: Hear the promise of God: “I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you will be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.”

Friends in Christ, the promises of God are true: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. He himself carried our sins in his body on the cross that we might be dead to sin and alive to God. Assured of God’s promises, let us live as new people, free to love God and our neighbor.

C: We do so intend, with the help of God! And we will begin right here, in the house of the Lord.

SHARING THE PEACE

HYMN No. 420 “Christ the Life of All the Living” (vs 1, 6 & 7)

**Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff’rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**Thou hast suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.**

PRAYER

(based on verses from Psalm 8)

L: Let us pray:

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth. You have set Your glory above the heavens. What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for Him? You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.” Father in heaven, we have confessed and acknowledged our waywardness before You and yet You have given us cause for rejoicing by giving us full pardon and forgiveness in return. As You have remembered us in mercy, help us to remember Your lavish grace, that we might live out our days on earth in Your peace and in Christ-like love with one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit, reign eternally, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The READING for this Ash Wednesday service is from the Book of Genesis, chapter 37.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father’s flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” And he said to him, “Here I am.” So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word.” So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, “What are you seeking?” “I am seeking my brothers,” he said. “Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.” And the man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.” But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

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Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him.

Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes and returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?" Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, "This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not." And he identified it and said, "It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces." Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him. Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

SONG "Grace that is Greater than All Our Sin" [\(video\)](#)

SERMON "God Remembers" Pastor Vern

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P For our sakes, O loving God, your Son shared our humanity, flesh of our flesh, dust of our dust.

For our sakes, O loving God, our sinless Savior took our sin upon himself, its guilt and punishment.

For our sakes, he resisted all that might have tempted him to turn aside from your holy will, to violate your Word.

For our sakes, he took up the cross, and gave his life upon it.

For Jesus' sake, O God, stretch out your loving hand to fill our hands with his fullness. Loosen our grasp on the things of this world and free our wills from covetousness.

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Give us the strength and determination to resist temptation, to turn anew to you and the mercy you offer, to take up the cross and follow faithfully, relying on your firmly guiding hand.

For we are dust, and unto dust we shall return. And yet we do so with firm confidence in your creating, saving power. For in your hands, dust lives!

Breathe into us the breath of life, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

P: The God of light and life be with you,

C: And also with you.

P: Open wide your hearts:

C: We open them up to our God.

P: Let us give thanks to God our Creator and Redeemer.

C Even in the midst of our journey, we give God our praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: God of all goodness, in this season of Lent, we gather on a journey of trust - trust that Your creation does not end with our death. Indeed, our Savior Jesus has borne the penalty of our sin and rose victoriously. And having conquered all the powers of darkness He has secured our place in Him that we too may share in His death and resurrection. With all creation, in every time and place, we join the everlasting chorus singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. (LSB 161)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: As we join all the saints in heaven and on earth at our Lord's table, we pray as Jesus taught us saying:

**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 WORD OF THE LORD

P: As Jesus continued on His journey, he could see that his hour was drawing near. He knew that his love for us would take him to the cross. And as the final night was upon him, he drew close to his friends. To show them and us the full measure of His love He shared one last meal.

The Lord Jesus took bread in His soon-to-be pierced hands, broke it, gave it to his friends saying:

“Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

(Let us eat together the body of Christ.)

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 cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

(Let us drink together from the cup of salvation, the blood of Christ shed for our sins.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: O Lord, through the Prophet Isaiah You speak to us as Your dear children saying: “Remember these things, Jacob, for you, Israel, are my servant. I have made you, you are my servant; Israel, I will not forget you.” (Isaiah 44:21). We thank You Lord God, for remembering us in Your mercy by giving us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus, heavenly food which strengthens us along our journey...

As You have remembered us, help us to remember Your faithfulness, that we may live in grateful praise until the day we stand before Your glorious throne with all Your saints. For to You alone belongs all glory and honor and praise and thanksgiving. Now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE LORD

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

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN No. 878 “Abide with Me” (vss. 1 & 6)

**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, O abide with me.**

**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.**

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.