

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025

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.

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C 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. Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

SENTENCES FOR WORSHIP

P: We once again gather to reflect on the sufferings of Jesus.

C: We also gather to reflect on the love that Jesus has for us.

P: In this service we focus on the blood our Savior shed to show us His love.

C: “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2).

P: It hurts to get stuck with a needle to have blood drawn.

C: “It hurt a lot more, Jesus, when You gave blood on a cross.

P: “How can we ever thank You enough for what You gave for us?”

C: “We can never thank You enough for what you did for us.

P: *“Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!”* (LSB 425, St. 4, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross)

All: “King of kings and Lord of lords, we are overwhelmed by Your loving heart for us. We offer our bodies “as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to you” (Romans 12:1). This, You ask of us. We can never earn our salvation by seeking to set aside our lives to worship and serve You. Tonight, we desire to be transformed by the gift of Your blood for our sins. It is even more beneficial than the transfusion of blood for a person in a health crisis. St. Paul tells us: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Cor. 5:17). Help us to live for others as Your ambassadors of reconciliation and peace. Amen.”

**Come to Calvary’s holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace many find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.**

**They that drink shall live forever;
‘Tis a soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Joel 2:12-19 (Return to the Lord)

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and 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. Who 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?

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

Between 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?’”

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

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 John 1:5-9 (The Blood of Jesus Cleanses Us from Sin)

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON HYMN NO. 433 "Glory Be to Jesus"

**Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From his sacred veins.**

**Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind.**

**Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem.**

**Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.**

**Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.**

**Lift we then our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood.**

SERMON "Blood Will Tell" 1 John 1:7 Pastor Perry Schefelker

CONFESSION OF FAITH *Nicene Creed (Please stand)*

People: **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 men 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 worshiped 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

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR: THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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No. 637 "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

**Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.**

**He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread he makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.**

**Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love you bless us now.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN NO. 543 "What Wondrous Love is This"

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!**

**When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing His love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**