

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

- P** On Ash Wednesday 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. Please pray that our Father in heaven, for the sake of His Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lent season for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Litany for Ash Wednesday

- P** O Lord,
C have mercy.
- P** O Christ,
C have mercy.
- P** O Lord,
C have mercy.
- P** O Christ,
C hear us.
- P** God the Father in heaven,
C have mercy.
- P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C have mercy.
- P** God the Holy Spirit,
C have mercy.
- P** Be gracious to us.
C Spare us, good Lord.
- P** Be gracious to us.
C Help us, good Lord.
- P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;
by Your holy nativity;
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion;
by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
C Help us, good Lord.
-

P In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P We poor sinners implore You

C **to hear us, O Lord.**

P To prosper the preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation;
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To draw all to Yourself;
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely,
the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers;
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;
and to have mercy on us all:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;
and graciously to hear our prayers:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C **we implore You to hear us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ,

C **hear us.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy. Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

P 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.

During the hymn, the congregation may come forward and receive the sign of the cross, in ash, on the forehead or on the hand.

Hymn #425

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, tune: Lowell Mason, text & tune: public domain

AΩ

Hymn # 437

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And
 2 Was it for crimes that I had done He
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And
 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While
 5 But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The

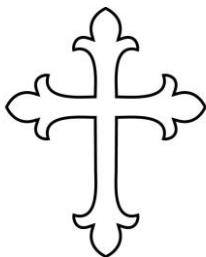


did my sov - 'reign die? Would He de - vote that
 groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,
 shut his glo - ries in When God, the might - y
 His dear cross ap - pears, Dis - solve my heart in
 debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -



sa - cred head For such a worm as I?
 grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
 mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.
 thank - ful - ness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
 self a - way: 'Tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.; Tune: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824; Text and tune: Public domain



Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 51:1–13

- P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
- C** **according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**
- P** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
- C** **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**
- P** Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
- C** **so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**
- P** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- C** **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**
- P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- C** **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice**
- P** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- C** **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**
- P** Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- C** **Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- P** Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Old Testament Reading

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. ¹⁹The 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.”

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
 - C** **Thanks be to God.**
-

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

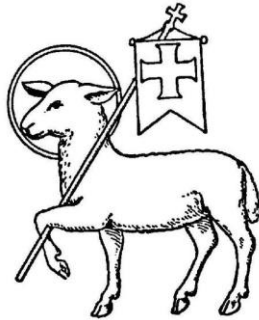
¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter six.

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. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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. . . .

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that 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.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life † everlasting. Amen

Hymn

The Power of the Cross

Oh to see the dawn of the dark-est day. Christ on the road to
 Oh to see the pain writ-ten on Your face, bear-ing the awe-some
 Now the day-light flees, now the ground be-neath quakes as its Mak-er
 Oh to see my name writ-ten in the wounds, for through Your suf-f'ring

Cal-va-ry. Tried by sin-ful men, torn and beat-en then
 weight of sin. Ev-'ry bit-ter thought, ev-'ry e-vil deed
 bows His head. Cur-tain torn in two, dead are raised to life.
 I am free. Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live

nailed to a cross of wood. This the pow'r of the cross, Christ be
 crown-ing Your blood-stained brow. This the pow'r of the cross, Christ be
 "Fin-ish!" the vic-t'ry cry. This the pow'r of the cross, Christ be
 won through Your self-less love! This the pow'r of the cross, Son of

- came sin for us, Took the blame, bore the
 - came sin for us, Took the blame, bore the
 - came sin for us, Took the blame, bore the
 God slain for us. What a love, what a

wrath, We stand for-giv-en at the cross.
 wrath, We stand for-giv-en at the cross.
 wrath, We stand for-giv-en at the cross.
 cost, We stand for-giv-en at the cross.

Sermon

Offering

Please take a moment to sign and pass the "Record of Friendship" booklet or use the QR code located on the inside cover of the booklet.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

Benediction

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C Amen.

Offertory

LSB 192



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Please remember to join us through this Lent season for our midweek services on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM

St. James Guiding Statement

Together we have found healing and hope in Jesus Christ and welcome others to experience these same Gospel promises.

St. James Mission Pillars

[Healing](#)
[Community](#)
[Restoration](#)



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SAINT JAMES
LUTHERAN CHURCH
— GLEN CARBON —

St. James Lutheran Church
146 North Main
P.O. Box 644

Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034
Office: 618.288.6120

Email: contact@stjamesglencarbon.org
www.stjamesglencarbon.org