

Worship Leader Edition – Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

On Ash Wednesday, our Lenten journey begins. It is a time to return to the Lord. During Lent, we reflect on the meaning of our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes reminds us of our human mortality and frailty. We are invited 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

PRELUDE

“Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ”

J. S. Bach

WELCOME and INVOCATION (*Rob*)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES {At the Baptismal font during opening Hymn. Ushers direct people to the font.} (*Rob*)
(*Invite the people at home to impose the ashes upon each other*)

+HYMN (*during Imposition of Ashes*)

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”
Verses 1, 3 and 4

ELW #324

Verse 1

In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

Verse 4

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

Verse 3

When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.

+LITANY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY (*Bette Gamboni*)

L: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life.

C: Amen.

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

L: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Bette Gamboni*)

L: O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING (*Beth Angerhofer/Tim Krieg*)

1 Corinthians 1:20-25

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

+THE HOLY GOSPEL {Pulpit} (Rob)

Matthew 7:15-29

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?’ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.’ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

Please stand as you are able.

+HYMN OF THE DAY

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

ELW #618

Verse 1

Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.

Verse 3

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Song and praises, songs and praises
I will raise forevermore,
will raise forevermore.

Verse 2

Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar

+THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Bette Gamboni*)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+THE PRAYERS {*Front Center*} (*Bette Gamboni*)

Screen

After each petition:

L: Hear us, O God,

C: your mercy is great.

+SHARING OF THE PEACE {*Front Center*} (*Bette Gamboni*)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

L: For all who are gathered, let us stand and take a moment to welcome everyone with a wave of peace. For those of you online, please share a word of peace in the comment or chat. Most of all as we go out into the world may we greet others as people of peace.

MEAL

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Pastor Rob*)

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE (*spoken*)

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*brief intro*)

ELW pg. 144

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (*Pastor Rob*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION/ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION SONG

"Lamb of God"

ELW pg. 146/Screen

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

TIME OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

L: In this time of reflection and response you are invited to fill out your welcome card. Share any reflections, questions, or prayers on the back. Also, take this time to prepare your offering. For those gathered the collection plates are in the front and back. For those online please go to our website **stlukesbloomington.org** and there is a link to give at the bottom of every page. Enjoy this time

COMMUNION MUSIC

11:00 AM -

"Rhosymedre"

Charles Callahan

Lori Murray

7:00 PM -

"Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee"

K. Lee Scott

St. Luke's Choir

Please stand as you are able.

+POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (*Rob*)

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

+POST-COMMUNION PRAYER {*Front Center*} (*Bette Gamboni*)

L: Loving God, you have fed our spirits with your word of hope and your food of life. Empower us to go forth strengthened and renewed, to serve the world you love.

C: Amen.

SENDING

+BENEDICTION (*Rob*)

L: Go, marked as God's beloved. And to all you meet remember each is also God's beloved. In the name of the Father and the Sone and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

ELW # 326

Verse 1

Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.

We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.

Verse 3

Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.

Verse 2

Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.

+

+DISMISSAL (*Bette Gamboni*)

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Magnificat”

Johann Pachelbel