



Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Glorifying God as we Grow in the Gospel and Go with the Gospel

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 23, 2009

Pastor Randy Ott

www.mzluth.org

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Ash Wednesday begins Lent, the church's 40-day journey of repentance and renewal in preparation for Holy Week. Because of its unique character and place in the church calendar, we celebrate Ash Wednesday as a separate festival. Because it is an important festival, the order of Holy Communion serves as the liturgy. However, the music of the liturgy is restrained: "Glory Be to God on High," "Alleluia," and other festive portions are omitted.

Communion is a part of worship today. Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS or ELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with an elder or the pastor before communing.

Order of Worship

PRESERVICE MUSIC

OPENING HYMN: "*Jesus I Will Ponder Now*"

Hymn 98

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray; Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

C: (sung) Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.

PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (spoken) **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 24:10-25

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 51a (page 86 of CW)

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 3:14-22

VERSE OF THE DAY

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY: "In Adam We Have All Been One"

Hymn 396

SERMON

The Foolish Wisdom of the Cross

1 Co 1:18-25

STAND

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* 11:00 a.m.
(Hannah Ihlenfeldt and Madeline Sabel)

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

Psalm 130

(read in unison)

**Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
O Lord, hear my voice.**

**Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.**

**If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?**

**But with you there is forgiveness;
therefore you are feared.**

**I wait for the Lord and in his Word I put my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the
morning.**

**O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**

M: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all people, and to live in harmony with his creation. But sin separates us from God, mars our relationship with one another, and brings ruin to God's good creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Moreover, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from loving God and our neighbor. Repentance, self-denial, prayer, and works of love – the disciplines of Lent – help us wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to

commit yourselves anew to this struggle, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

STAND

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

M: Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts, words, and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.

M: In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God's continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

Time for silent meditation follows.

M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (spoken) **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: (spoken) **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: (spoken) **It is good and right so to do.**

PROPER PREFACE

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: (sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus, Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O
Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O
Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace. A -
men. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” (CWS 747)

Grades 7-8 11:00 a.m.

“How Beautiful”

Choir 7:30 p.m.

HYMNS “Glory Be To Jesus”

Hymn 103

“Jesus in Your Dying Woes”

Hymn 139

THANKSGIVING

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

C: (sung) **Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.**

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: (spoken) **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: *“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”* Hymn 319



Midweek Lenten Worship 2010

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Soup and sandwich meals will be served in the basement after the 11:00 a.m. service and an hour before the 7:30 p.m. service. Please join us!

Feb. 24 *Justified by Grace Alone Through Faith Alone* Romans 3:21-26
March 3 *More Precious Than Life* Philipians 3:7-11
March 10 *The Reason to Endure* Hebrews 12:1-3
March 17 *Peace With God Through Our Lord Jesus Christ* Romans 5:1-11
March 24 *No Longer Dead, but Alive* Colossians 2:13-15