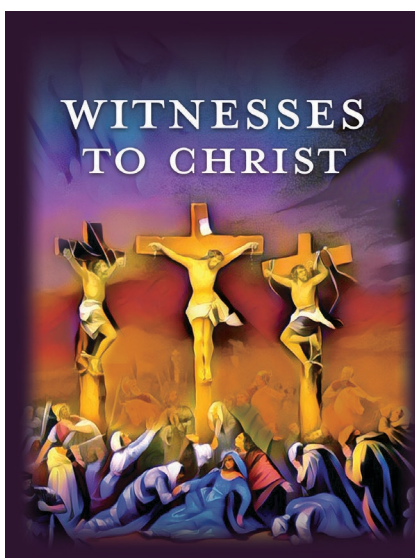


Zion Lutheran Church



March 2nd, 2022
Evening Service

Ash Wednesday

As we begin our Lenten journey, we focus our attention upon various witnesses to Christ in John's Gospel. We begin with John the Baptist, a man on a mission. "There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as to witness concerning that light, so that through him all people might believe" (John 1:6–7). John the Baptist's mission is "to witness concerning that light." In fact, fourteen times in John's Gospel, the word *witness* is connected with John the Baptist. "He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to every person was coming into the world" (John 1:8–9). John points us to Jesus, who takes away our sin, our guilt, and our shame at the cross.

ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day 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 and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

LITANY

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 teaching 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.**

- 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.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The congregation may come forward to receive ashes in the sign of the cross.

- P Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence and may be seated.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, You have continually manifested Your love, delivering Your people from their sins not due to merit or worthiness but purely out of mercy and for the sake of the obedient life, life-giving death, and victorious resurrection of Your Son. Bless this Lenten journey to the cross that with new hearts we may acknowledge Your kindness and live in repentance and in the obedience of faith; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING -- *Joel 2:12–19*

“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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING -- 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

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.

Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For 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. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet

not killed; as 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.**

VERSE FOR LENT

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL – *John 1:29-34*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

“This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.’ I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

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 OF THE DAY -- "Behold! The Lamb of God," John Said

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. "Behold! The Lamb of God," John said
"Who takes all sin away."
This Lamb is Christ, who in our stead
For sin would mutely pay.
"Behold your King!" by Pilate scourged; | Sin's hellish sum on Him converged,
While "Crucify!" the hateful urged,
Their Savior to betray. |
| | 2. The Way—of justice was deprived; |

The Truth—was overrun;
The Life—was all from Christ derived;
God glorifies His Son!

“I am the Bread of Life,” Christ said;
“My sacred blood for all, I shed;
Who eats and drinks of Me is fed.”
All death by Christ undone.

His perfect life He sacrificed,
His finished work for all sufficed—
Debt canceled on the cross.

3. Christ’s glory is not seen by those
Who view God’s Word as dross,
For worldly wisdom never knows
How gain could come from loss.
Yet, this the glory of the Christ:

4. May we this holy Lententide
Christ’s Passion clearly see;
This somber vision will provide
The truth that sets us free.
Hear John, who speaks of what he knows;
Come, follow on the path Christ chose:
The cross, the tomb from which He rose
In joyous victory!

Text: Stephen P. Starke; Copyright © 2021 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P With repentant hearts, let us turn to God in prayer for the Church, the world, and all who are in need, trusting that God is gracious and merciful to us in Jesus, abounding in steadfast love.

For the Church, that this Lenten season draws us closer to God and to one another as we focus on Jesus’ redemptive acts for us and the life that He calls us to live—marked by repentance, fasting, prayer, and acts of love toward our neighbors. In prayer,

C **we return to You, O Lord.**

P For those who are sick, hospitalized, or dying, [*including . . .*], that they experience healing according to Your will, and that in the midst of their suffering they would experience the presence of Jesus in words of hope and acts of care. In prayer,

C **we return to You, O Lord.**

P For this congregation, that our intensified repentance, fasting, and prayer lead us to live in renewed ways, dying to sin with Christ in Holy Baptism each day, and being raised to new life as well every day and into eternity. In prayer,

C we return to you, O Lord.

P For our loved ones who faithfully followed Jesus in this life and are now with Him in heaven, we give thanks. Bring us to that day when all Your saints, past, present, and future, are returned to You for all eternity. In prayer,

C we return to you, O Lord.

P By the words of the prophets and by the living voice of Jesus in our ears, You call us to return to You, O Lord. According to Your gracious mercy and abounding love, hear these prayers that we this day have spoken, as well as the prayers we have that are too deep for words; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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



where to look for aid; When days and nights of
meet be - fore Your throne; To You, O faith - ful
cries in time of need Through Him whose name a -
woes be - fore You lay; For sore - ly tried, cast



anx - ious thought No help or coun - sel yet have brought,
God, we cry For res - cue in our mis - er - y.
lone is great, Our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.
down, we stand, Per - plexed by fears on ev - 'ry hand.

5 O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;
Absolve us through Your boundless grace.
Be with us in our anguish still;
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

6 So we with all our hearts each day
To You our glad thanksgiving pay,
Then walk obedient to Your Word,
And now and ever praise You, Lord.