

# ASH

WEDNESDAY

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REMEMBRANCE THROUGH SACRIFICE

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Online Worship Service**  
**February 17, 2021**

## **WELCOME**

### **INTROIT: *Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12; antiphon: v. 17***

**PASTOR:** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 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 to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**ALL:** **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.**

**PASTOR:** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

### **Lamb of God**

**Your only Son, no sin to hide,  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod,  
And to become the Lamb of God.**

**Your Gift of love they crucified,  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:  
The humble King they named a fraud,  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God.**

**O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

I was so lost, I should have died,  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod,  
And to be called a lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

PASTOR: As we begin the season of Lent, we take time to prepare, knowing that our Lord needed preparation time for what was to be the crucifixion of His future. To fully receive the Gospel, we must seek to understand the nature and weight of sin within ourselves. Only then, can we feel the relief that the grace of Christ gives to us. Let us take this time to confess ourselves before our Heavenly Father.

PASTOR: Lord Jesus, hear us as we confess,

**ALL: that sin is present in our hearts, hurting our growth in the Gospel and causing harm we would rather not cause. Our sins have no defense, and so, we seek our defense in the blood of Christ, the willing sacrifice that our eternal lives might be spared of separation from our Heavenly home. Forgive us, Father, in the name of Jesus.**

PASTOR: The Good News is that our Heavenly Father seeks to have compassion on His children and is pleased when we admit our sinfulness and seek His grace. When we confess with a true heart, God forgives. He takes pleasure in those who put pride and arrogance down for the sake of the greater glory to come. Know that the forgiveness of God has been granted to you this night, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

# **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

PASTOR: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**ALL: 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.”

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For 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.

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

### **Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted**

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it; 'tis the true and faithful Word.

Ye who think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation, here the refuge of the lost:  
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, is the name of which we boast;  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.

PASTOR: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**ALL: Glory to You, O Lord.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21***

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

“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. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that 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. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

PASTOR: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Amazing Grace**

**Amazing grace- how sweet the sound**

**That saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost but now am found,**

**Was blind but now I see!**

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,**

**And grace, my fears relieved;**

**How precious did that grace appear**

**The hour I first believed.**

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.

## **SERMON**

### **Nothing but the Blood**

What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! Precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this I see,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
For my cleansing, this my plea,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! Precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
This is all my righteousness,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! Precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: O Lord, our heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that we would turn from our evil ways and live. Turn us again, O God of our salvation, and let Your anger cease from us. Spare us from every evil to body and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Look graciously on Your Church and preserve the Gospel among us. Renew us in this penitential season to strive against the desires of the flesh, to grow in the joy of Your salvation, and to look in love and service toward our neighbors, especially those of the household of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Look graciously on the families of our congregation. Defend Your holy estate of marriage against every enemy that would divide. Strengthen parents for their duties, especially bringing up their children in the fear and instruction of the Lord and preserve us all faithful to the end. Lord, in Your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Look graciously on our nation and its leaders, all civil servants, and those who protect us and work for the common good. Drive away all disease and fear from us. Grant peace, we pray, O Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Behold in mercy all who are sick, who suffer and who rejoice; and be with all expectant mothers, all whose labor is dangerous, the unemployed, those near death and those who mourn. Give comfort to us, who are dust and must return to dust, that a broken and contrite heart You will not despise. Lord, in Your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We thank You, heavenly Father, that You have sent Your only begotten Son into our flesh to offer Himself as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. Trusting in His mercy, bring us in repentance and faith to Your altar to eat His body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**



Pastor: Graciously receive our prayers, deliver, and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken in unison)**

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed by 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**

PASTOR: 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.

All: Amen.

## **Abide with Me**

Abide with me; fast falls the even-tide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour.  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who, like Thyself, my Guide and Stay can be?  
Thro' cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine thro' the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee.  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.