

ASH
WEDNESDAY
HOLY COMMUNION



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

300 Broad Street Menasha, WI 54952

Church Office (920) 722-2662

School Office (920) 725-1715

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

10:30 am & 6:30 pm

LENT (ASH WEDNESDAY TO HOLY SATURDAY)

Forty Days excluding Sundays (which are in Lent, not of Lent)

Lent's overarching theme is the battle waged by Christ against Satan, in which we are not spectators but participants. The weekdays concentrate on the suffering of Christ, while the Sundays show various victories along the way to the final victory over Satan at Christ's Resurrection. Lent is about what Christ did and does for us, and then, secondarily, as we receive the forgiveness of our sins, we strive, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to overcome the sins which beset us.

The mood of Lent is deep penitence. While our eyes are fixed upon Christ and His suffering for us, we must at the same time see how we have been the cause of that suffering. Lent can be seen as Divine Drama, in which we are on the stage, both as the sinful members of the crowd shouting "Crucify Him!" and as the disciples who were weak of faith and despaired at His death. At the same time, we see the Cross as victory, not defeat.

To emphasize the penitential mood, certain changes are made in the liturgy. The Alleluias are removed; the *Gloria in Excelsis* is omitted, and no flowers are placed in the chancel. All crucifixes in the Church may be veiled. The veils indicate that Jesus hid His Divinity behind the veil of His Flesh in order to suffer and die for us.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It began as the day that penitents who had been excommunicated from the Church came to be enrolled for reinstatement, which would take place on Holy Thursday. They would lie on the ground, wearing sack-cloth garments, and after an exhortation: from the Bishop, ashes would be sprinkled upon them. This Biblical gesture came to be embraced by all Christians as a sign of repentance. It is now administered by applying a Cross on the forehead with ashes accompanied by the sober reminder: "Remember, O man that dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return!"

Seeing, then, that Christ has taken our sin upon Himself, how are we to live? During Lent we look to Christ also for guidance and help to overcome our vices. The three Lenten disciplines recommended by our Lord are given in the Gospel and address the major sins of greed, spiritual apathy, and fleshly indulgence. The change in our lives is meant to be permanent, and not just a "giving up something for Lent." The "something" we give up is the vice which besets us. It may well be represented by some particular food or past-time. The object is to bring our flesh under control of our spirit. By saying "no" to those things which in themselves may not be sinful, we are strengthened to say "no" to those which are.

As St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:25-27: "Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

The color for most of Lent is a sober violet, to show the seriousness of sin.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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 Lenten tide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

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.**

All may present themselves to the altar to receive ashes.

HYMN FOR IMPOSITION Today Your Mercy Calls Us

LSB 915

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Ps. 51:1–3, 10–12; antiphon: Ps. 51:17

P The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.

C **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;***
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

P Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*

and cleanse me | from my sin!

C **For I know my trans- | gressions,***
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.

P Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*

and renew a right spirit with- | in me.

C **Cast me not away from your | presence,***
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.

P Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*

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 be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

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

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

LSB 186

SALUTATION and COLLECT

LSB 189

P 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.

C Amen

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

PB 761

Special Music-Day School Sings (10:30)

GRADUAL (6:30)

Heb. 12:2

P [O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE ~ *2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

PB 966

VERSE OF THE DAY

P Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful.

C Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL ~ *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

PB 811

NICENE CREED

LSB 191

HYMN OF THE DAY

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

LSB 843

SERMON

“Return to Me”

Joel 2:12-19

OFFERTORY

LSB 192 & following

OFFERING (6:30)

The Gallery Choir

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

LSB 194

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

LSB 195

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 196

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

LSB 197

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

LSB 198

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness **LSB 563**

Lamb of God **LSB 550**

All Depends on Our Possessing **LSB 732**

NUNC DMITTIS ~ *Song of Simeon*

LSB 199

SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201 and following

CLOSING HYMN

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

LSB 610

Come Worship with Us.....

Saturday, February 17th at 5pm

Sunday, February 18th at 9am
Education Hour at 10:30am

Wednesday, February 21st
10:30am Worship
5:15pm Dinner
6:30pm Worship

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