



Remember You Are Dust,  
And To Dust You Shall Return.

Ash Wednesday  
February 22, 2012



COME TO BELIEVE, COME TO BELONG

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## INTRODUCTION

*Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent with ash on our foreheads. This cross echoes our baptismal anointing, when we were buried with Christ. The ash is a chilling reminder of our mortality, but because our death is now in Christ, our endings are beginnings. The Lenten disciplines of acts of kindness, prayer, and fasting are tools of discipleship that can lead us to renewal as we bury all that is holding us back from being truly alive.*

## GATHERING

*The assembly gathers in silence.*

## READING

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**<sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**<sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

**14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

**15 O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**

**16 For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**

**17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,**

**19 then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

### **GREETING**

Behold, now is the acceptable time;  
**now is the day of salvation.**

The grace, mercy, and peace of God be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

A reading from Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near —

**2** a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains

a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,

nor will be again after them

in ages to come.

**12** Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
13 rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.  
14 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?  
15 Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
16 gather the people.  
Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.  
17 Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.  
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Psalm 103:8–14

8 LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and  
abounding in steadfast love;

**9 you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your  
anger forever.**

10 You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us accord-  
ing to our iniquities.

**11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is  
your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our trans-  
gressions from us.

**13 As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

<sup>14</sup> For you know well how we are formed; you remember that we are but dust.

## SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

A reading from 2nd Corinthians

<sup>20</sup> We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Following the Reading*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Brian Pederson

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* ELW 608



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,  
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,



call - ing for you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's  
plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and  
prom - ised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has



wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.  
heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?  
mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.

### *Refrain*



"Come home, come home! You who are wea - ry, come home."



Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly, Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

## INVITATION TO LENT

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most holy and merciful God,

**we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, 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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.*

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

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, as the pastor continues.*

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

**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

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

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

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

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered by the Holy Spirit and renewed in the Word, let us pray to our merciful God for the needs of the world.

For your church marked with the cross of Christ, that it may find its richest treasure in being given away for the life of the world. Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all preparing for baptism in this Lenten season, that your steadfast love would strengthen them and all the baptized for fasting, prayer, and works of love. Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For your creation fashioned from the dust of the ground, that your Spirit would restore threatened environments and renew our care for all creation. Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all nations and communities beset by hardships and violence, that honest speech and acts of mercy may lead to reconciliation and peace. Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the hungry, homeless, unemployed, imprisoned, and all suffering from any affliction, that they might find comfort in your unchanging

love. Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the saints ,who know the treasure of eternal life.  
May all who are marked with the cross of Christ trust in the promise of  
the resurrection. Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers and all that we fail to ask, O God, for the sake of  
Jesus Christ who restores us to life.  
**Amen.**

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those  
in need.*

## OFFERTORY

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW 186

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider,  
**you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and  
life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your  
bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

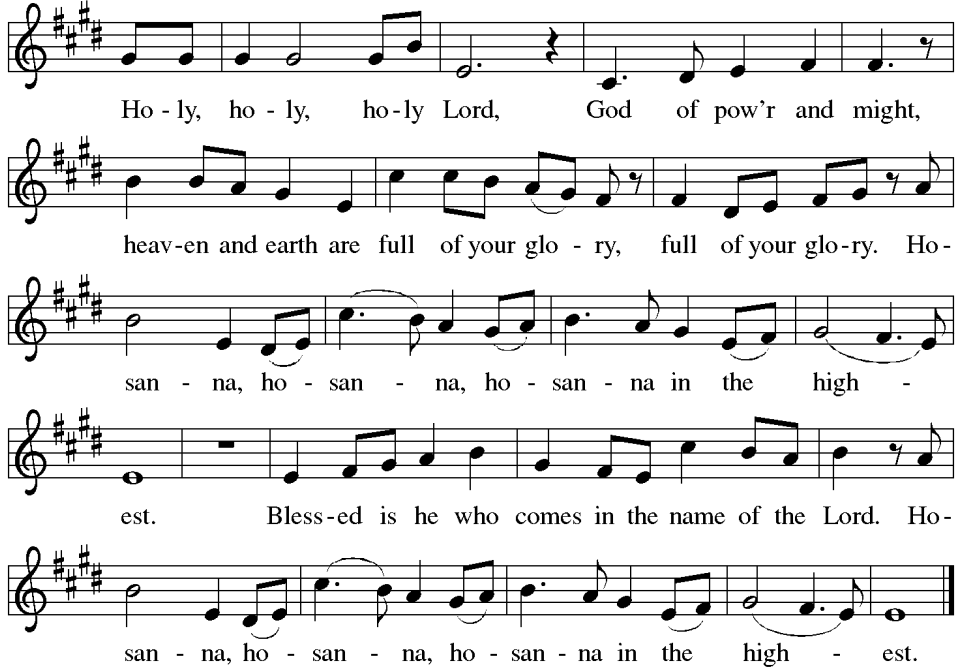
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy..... (*pastor continues, concluding with*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:** *is open to all. We believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine/juice, which are his body and blood. Young children whose parents do not wish for them to receive Communion yet are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing.*

## **COMMUNION SONG**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray..... Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Be Thou My Vision*

ELW 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

## SENDING

Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**