

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT**

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 relationships with one another, and brings ruin to God's good creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our heavenly 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 fight against everything that leads us away from loving God and our neighbor. Today we begin the season of Lent, the church's 40-day journey of repentance and renewal in preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

Repentance, self-discipline, prayer, and works of love — the disciplines of Lent — help us wage our spiritual warfare. Therefore, we commit ourselves anew to this struggle, seeking God's strength through his means of grace.

**HYMN 387: Drawn to the Cross**

**1 Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed with healing gifts for souls distressed,  
To find in you my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.**

**2 how well you know my griefs and fears, your grace abused, my misspent years;  
So not to you with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.**

**3 Wash me and take away each stain; let nothing of my sin remain.  
For cleansing through your cross and pain, Christ crucified, I come.**

**4 To pledge my labor willingly, which shall so sweet a service be  
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.**

**Pastor:** In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### **THE FIRST LESSON: Revelation 3:14-22**

Revelation 3:14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.

15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. 21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

### **THE SECOND LESSON: Luke 18:9-14**

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ 14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

### **HYMN 104: Go to Dark Gethsemane**

**1 Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;  
Your Redeemer’s conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from his griefs away; Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

**2 Follow to the judgment hall; View the Lord of life arraigned.  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suff’ring, pain, or loss; Learn of him to bear the cross.**

**3 Cal-v'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at his feet,  
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry; Learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

**4 Early hasten to the tomb where the laid his breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.**

**OUR MEDITATION: Zechariah 3:1-10**

3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. 2 The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?" 3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. 4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you. 5 Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by. 6 The angel of the Lord gave this charge to Joshua: 7 "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'if you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here. 8 'Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. 9 See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day. 10 "'In that day each of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and fig tree,' declares the Lord Almighty."

**For The Accused, Peace and Prosperity!**

**OFFERING**

**The offering will be received as you are ushered out after the service in the fellowship hall so that offering plates are not passed.**

**PRAYER**

**THE 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.

**HYMN 303: With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh**

**1 With broken heart and contrite sigh, a trembling sinner, Lord, I cry.**

**Your pard'ning grace is rich and free—O God, be merciful to me!**

**2 I smite upon my troubled breast, with deep and conscious guilt oppressed,**

**Christ and his cross my only plea—O God, be merciful to me!**

**3 Far off I stand with tearful eyes Nor dare uplift them to the skies,**

**But you can all my anguish see—O God, be merciful to me!**

**4 No gifts, no deeds that I have done can for a single sin atone.**

**To Calvary alone I flee—O God, be merciful to me!**

**5 And when, redeemed from sin and hell, with all the ransomed souls I dwell,**

**My joyous song shall ever be: God has been merciful to me.**

**OUR CONFESSION**

**Pastor: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?**

**Congregation: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his  
punishment.**

**Pastor: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?**

**Congregation: I should examine myself according to the Ten  
Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities  
as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or  
employee, a teacher or student.**

**Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently  
endured affliction?**

**Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving?**

**Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome?**

**Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name?**

**Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind?**

**Have I failed to do what is right and good?**

**Pastor:** When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

**Congregation:** I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will ask God for his forgiveness and mercy on the basis of Christ's pure and holy life and his innocent suffering and death on the cross.

**Pastor:** 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.

## **CONSECRATION AND RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I receive the precious food of your life giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others.

### **BLESSING**

#### **HYMN 333: Abide, O Dearest Jesus**

**1 Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with your grace  
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.**

**2 Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with your Word  
And thus now and here-after True peace and joy afford.**

**3 Abide with heav'nly brightness Among us, precious Light;  
Your truth direct and keep us From error's gloomy night.**

**4 Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord;  
Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through your Word.**

**5 Abide with your protection Among us, Lord, our Strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.**

**6 Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.**



