



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

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021
Live Stream via
facebook.com/salcwausau
Isaiah 58:1-12
2 Corinthians 5:20b- -6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.

You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;

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

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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.

GATHERING HYMN

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

GATHERING

PRELUDE

OPENING AND GREETING

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,

and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,

and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,

a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,

and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation

and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,

and sinners shall be restored to you.

WORD

A reading from Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall

be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”

A reading from Second Corinthians.

We entreat 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. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever 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 whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast,

put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord Jesus Think on Me”

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

HYMN

“Shelter Me”

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.

HYMN

“Once We Sang and Danced”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response is:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

MEAL

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

LAMB OF GOD

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

PRAYER FOR THOSE NOT RECEIVING COMMUNION

SENDING

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world...**Thanks be to God.**

Serving in Worship

Pr. Jenn Collins

Pr. Justin Smoot

Joel Freiberg - Pianist and Vocalist

Chris Kensmoe - Layreader and Vocalist

Michelle Tlusty - Vocalist

Tina Spiegel - Vocalist

Jan Nelson - Flute

Technical Support

Eleanor Schwantes

Peter Schwantes

Joel Freiberg

Bob Wiederhoeft

Thank you for your offerings and continued support!

Now more than ever we are grateful for a gift of any amount you might share to further support the ministry of Saint Andrew. What you share makes a difference as we seek to be “open to all”. For the many ways you give, thank you.

FEBRUARY 17, 2021
ASH WEDNESDAY



You are God's and to God you shall return.

ASH WEDNESDAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Ash Wednesday observance.

Wednesday	Isaiah 58:1-12	Worship God by showing justice
	2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10	Ambassadors for Christ
	Psalms 51:1-17	A prayer for cleansing
	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	The practice of faith

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday:

Merciful God, you love all that you have created; create in me, O Lord, a clean heart through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, as you share with us your food from creation, help us to share bread with the hungry. Amen. (Isaiah 58:7)

A Blessing to Give:

May your heart be filled with joy and your soul rejoice. (Psalm 51:8)



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FEBRUARY 17, 2021

HYMN FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

ASH WEDNESDAY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that you regret or makes you sad?
- What is something that brings you joy?
- How does knowing that you are loved by God move you from regrets and sadness to joy?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 51:1-17.

These words are poetic, beautiful, and have been used frequently in the church. They offer a contemplative mood as words used in the offertory (vv. 10-12) and an expression of confidence during the morning prayer service (v. 15). For Ash Wednesday, the words communicate our desire for repentance and renewal. What can be overlooked is the focus on joy that this psalm desires: "Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice" (v. 8); and, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation" (v. 12). It is hard not to associate Ash Wednesday with the piety of giving something up for the Lenten season. Perhaps this is the year to give up sadness and to focus on the joy God wants for us and the praise we give our merciful God. Remorse and confession of sins is an appropriate practice for Lent and throughout the year. However, the outcome of our Christian faith is to be freed from our brokenness that we may be people of joy and gladness. Contemplate your desire and need for forgiveness. How do you experience God's mercy and steadfast love in a way that brings you joy?

Pray: **Loving God, as we begin a new season of Lent, give us new hearts to love you and fill us with joy in your presence through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Lent is a season for serving and giving. Consider doing a "30-Minute Service Challenge" this Lent. Each week, commit to an act of community service for 30 minutes. This may involve contributing time to a community program, doing something kind for a neighbor, visiting a person who is elderly or homebound, or helping someone who has a particular need. Each time you finish your service, think or talk about what it meant to you and those you served.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

On this Ash Wednesday, do some simple ritual act that keeps your focus on God and God's word. Perhaps you fast by eating simple meals or skipping a meal all together and use the extra time to read the Bible passages for Ash Wednesday. For example, pray Psalm 51:1-17 as a prayer of repentance and close with the words: **You are God's, and to God you shall return.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org