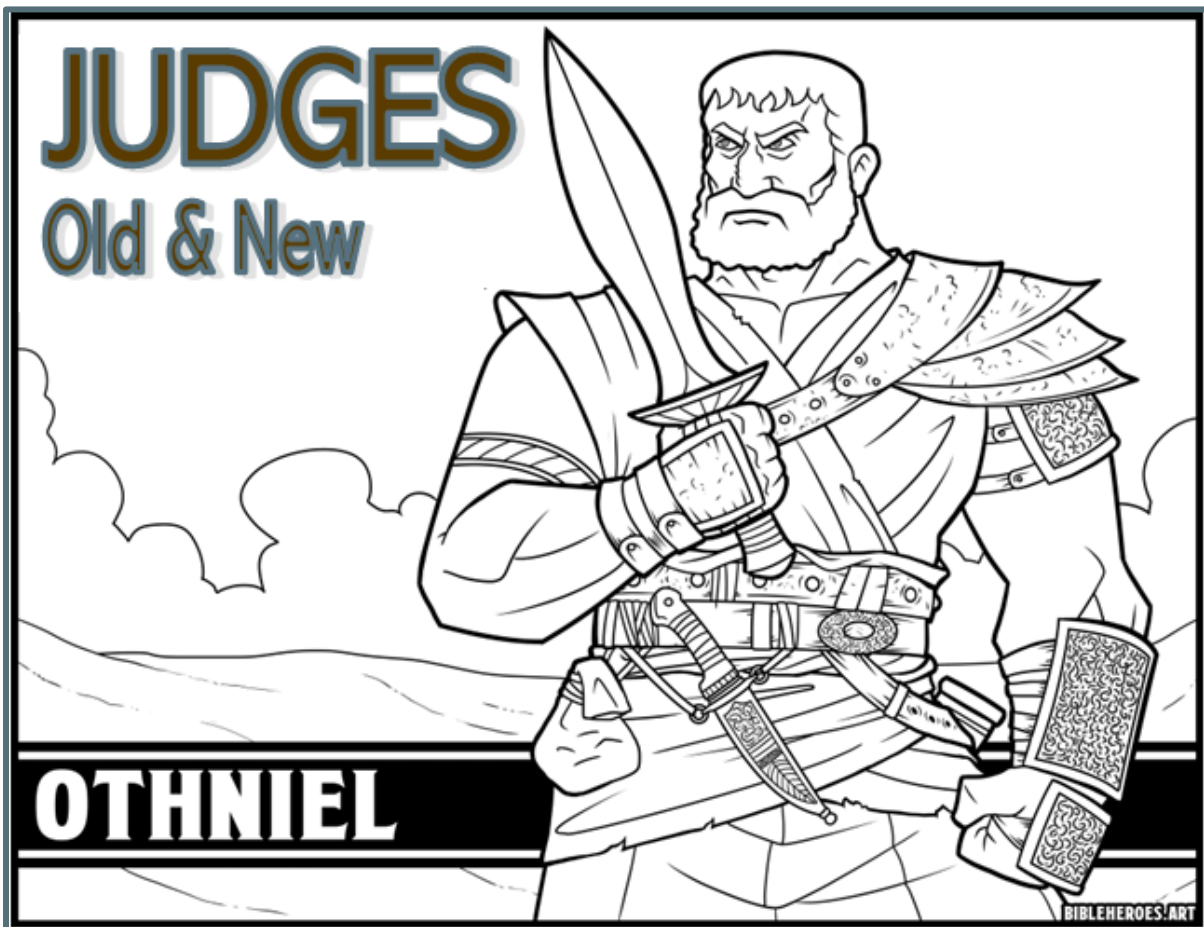


Judging Others

Ash Wednesday · February 14, 2024



St. Paul Lutheran Church
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Preservice Music

As We Gather

Lent begins with ashes. The wearing of ashes on our forehead may seem like an unusual tradition, but it is rich with meaning. From the earliest days, God's children have repented before Him in sackcloth and ashes, a visual reflection of their hearts turning to Him for forgiveness and restoration. Fixing our eyes on Jesus during the forty-day season of Lent, we journey with Him to Calvary's cross where, enduring the ashes of our sins and the penalty they deserve, He grants to us the beauty of His forgiveness, full and free. Let us be renewed in our hearts and minds this day as we gather in the Lord's house. His Word will show us our great need for His saving love and deliver to us the treasures He has promised.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

All in attendance in the sanctuary are asked to complete the Connect Card located in the pew rack and they will be collected along with Prayer Cards, during the Sermon Hymn.

Call to Worship

Lent Versicles *(please stand)*

P O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

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.

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Psalm 78:1-4

P Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C O come, let us worship Him.

P Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.

P Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

Address

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

Collect

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen. *(please be seated)*

Imposition of Ashes

Those desiring ashes come forward as directed. As he makes the sign of the cross with the ashes, the pastor reminds the penitent, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Silence is kept as the ashes are applied. Those in their seats may meditate on Psalm 78 in the hymnal.

♪ Chief Of Sinners Though I Be *LSB 611 vs. 1-5*

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.
- 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;

All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.

5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.
Text: Public domain

Invocation *(please stand)*

✠: *The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful

and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

P The ashes of our sin remind us of the curse of death and our need for Your redemption.

C **For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and renew us. Mark us with Your cross and take our sins from us. Help us to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P The ashes of your sin have been taken away and you have been marked and redeemed by

Christ, the Crucified. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. *(please be seated)*

Judges 3:7–11

A A reading from Judges, chapter 3.

And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth. Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia. And the people of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years. But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. The Spirit of the LORD was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand

prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse for Lent

P Return to the Lord, your God,

C **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Matthew 7:1-6

P A reading from Matthew, chapter 7.

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out

of your brother's eye.

“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Apostles' Creed (please stand)

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.**

(please be seated)

♪ Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds *LSB 867*

- 1 Let children hear the mighty deeds
Which God performed of old,
Which in our younger days we saw,
And which our parents told.
- 2 So make to them His glories known,
His works of pow'r and grace;
And we'll convey His wonders down
Through ev'ry rising race.
- 3 Our sons and daughters we shall tell
And they again to theirs
That generations yet unborn
May teach them to their heirs.

- 4 O teach them with all diligence
The truths of God's own Word,
To place in Him their confidence,
To fear and trust their Lord,
- 5 To learn that in our God alone
Their hope securely stands,
That they may never doubt His love
But walk in His commands.

Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.; (st. 4): Bernhard Schumacher, 1886–1978

Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Public domain

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Sermon

Prayer (*please stand*)

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the name of the Lord our God to be held sacred in our congregation and throughout the world, that His Word be taught in its truth and purity and we, as the children of God, live holy lives according to it, as those who have been marked and redeemed by Christ, the crucified,

let us pray to the Lord.

C Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

P For the blessing of all who have been named and claimed by Christ and who seek to carry out His Great Commission, that when we face a world that struggles under the curse of sin and in the ashes of death, we may rejoice in the assurance of our Savior's never-failing grace, love, and deliverance, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

P For the well-being of all the world, especially the community, the schools, the workplaces, and the families in our midst, that our creator and provider would supply all that we need and enable us to dwell in peace and security, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

P For the restoration of all who are broken in heart, body, mind, spirit, and relationships, that times of difficulty would lead all who

struggle to seek refuge in the support of others and, ultimately, to receive the eternal treasures of the sure mercies of our God, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

P For the healing of those who are struggling with medical issues and battling various types of illnesses, [especially . . .], that Jesus, our healer of both body and soul, would hear our prayers and grant mercy to them all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

P For the answering of these and all other prayers that we boldly bring before the throne of grace, that we take confidence in God as our Father, who has marked us with the cross of His Son and redeemed us by His blood so that the ashes of our sin may be replaced by the beauty of His righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lamb of God, have mercy upon us. Answer

our prayers in the way that best brings glory to Your holy name. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

We welcome to the table of the Lord's Supper all those who believe and confess alongside this family the teachings of the Lutheran Church. For more on this, refer to the Worship card, located in each pew rack.

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who became sin for us at the cross, taking away the ashes of our death so that we may be redeemed by His blood and marked by His

Spirit. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

♪ Sanctus

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the

dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

P The table is prepared. Welcome to the Lord's table.

♪ Agnus Dei

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. *(please be seated)*

Distribution

♪ Where Charity And Love Prevail *LSB 845 v. 1-6*

1 Where charity and love prevail

 There God is ever found;

 Brought here together by Christ's love

 By love are we thus bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy fear

 His charity we learn;

Let us with heart and mind and soul
Now love Him in return.

3 Forgive we now each other's faults
As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.

4 Let strife among us be unknown;
Let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek;
Be ours His holy peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.

6 For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt.
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♪ How Wide The Love Of Christ *LSB 535 v. 1-5*

- 1 How wide the love of Christ!
 It knows not class or race
 But holds our one humanity
 Within its broad embrace.
- 2 How long the love of Christ!
 Its patience will not cease
 Until this broken world is bound
 In everlasting peace.
- 3 How high the love of Christ!
 Beyond all thought it soars,
 And yet upon our passing lives
 Unmeasured mercy pours.
- 4 How deep the love of Christ,
 Descending to a cross!
 He bears within His wounded hands
 All human pain and loss.
- 5 All praise to You, O Christ,
 For love whose depth and height,
 Whose length and breadth fill time and space

With endless life and light!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007
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Ash Wednesday Prayer

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.

Collect for Grace

P Almighty God, heavenly Father, Your mercies are new to us every morning and, though we in no wise deserve Your goodness, You abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul. Give us, we humbly pray, Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all

Your benefits, and cheerfully serve You;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the
love of God and the communion of the Holy
Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

♪ The Lamb vs. 1-5 CCLI #643985

**1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!**

Refrain **Worthy is the Lamb whose death
makes me His own!**

The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

2 The Lamb, the Lamb,

One perfect final offering.

**The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to
sing. *Refrain***

**3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill. *Refrain***

**4 He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness. *Refrain***

**5 He rose, He rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. *Refrain***

Dismissal

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

