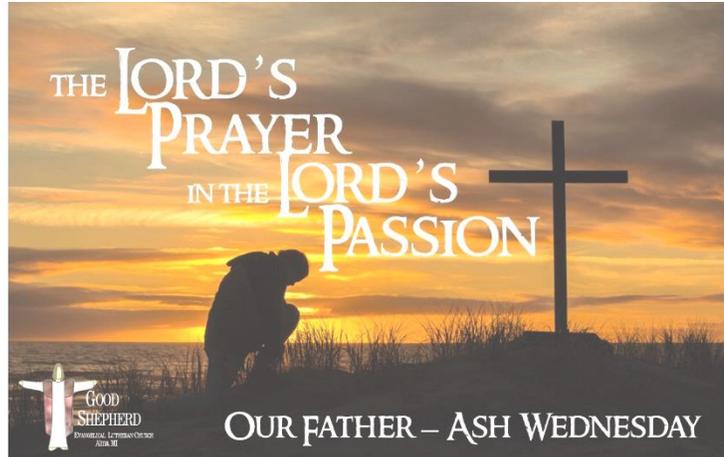


Significance of the Day

At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for Baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had been separated through sin. In course of time the Church came to recognize that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.



I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Lord, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, by reading and meditating on God's holy word.



Pastor: Brothers and Sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, and with each other. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve God, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but that we turn to him and live. So we begin in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Earth to earth,

Congregation: Ashes to ashes,

P: From dust we were created,

C: And to dust we shall return.

P: From the dust and ashes of our lives,

C: Create again, O Lord.

P: Create in us clean hearts, O God,

C: And renew your free spirit within us. Amen

HYMN

With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh **CW 303**

♪ 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!

Far off I stand with tearful eyes nor dare up lift them to the skies,
But you can all my anguish see O God, be merciful to me!

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!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ALL: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

LESSON: *Luke 18:9-14*

9 Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: 10 “Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’ 13 “However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ 14 “I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

SUNG RESPONSE:

(Jesus Sinners Does Receive 304)

♪ Jesus sinners does receive; oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live and from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve Jesus sinners does receive.

LESSON: *Romans 3:10-20*

There is no one who is righteous, not even one. 11 There is no one who understands. There is no one who searches for God. 12 They all turned away; together they became useless. There is no one who does what is good; there is not even one. 13 Their throat is an open grave. They kept deceiving with their tongues. The poison of asps is on their lips. 14 Their mouth is filled with cursing and bitterness. 15 Their feet are quick to shed blood. 16 They leave a trail of destruction

and suffering wherever they go. ¹⁷The way of peace they did not know. ¹⁸There is no fear of God in front of their eyes.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God's judgment. ²⁰For this reason, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin.

SUNG RESPONSE:

(Jesus Sinners Does Receive 304)

♪ I a sinner, come to you with a penitent confession.
Savior, show me mercy too; grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve— Jesus sinners does receive.

MEDITATION:

“OUR FATHER”

Matthew 6:9 “Pray this way, Our Father in heaven...”

SUNG RESPONSE:

(Jesus Sinners Does Receive 304)

♪ Oh, how blest it is to know, were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow by your blood and bitter passion,
For these words I do believe—Jesus sinners does receive.

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. 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.

CONFESSION:

P: In deep humility and to our shame let us confess that we by our unworthy thoughts, our unthinking words, and our self-centered deeds have offended the triune God who loves us with a steadfast and enduring love.

(silent confession)

P: O God,

ALL: Gracious God, I have sinned against you. I am sick at heart for I have dared to offend you. I have shown little regard for your will and even less for others. I beg your forgiveness yet again, O God. Be merciful to me, and for Jesus’ sake forgive

me.

PROCLAMATION OF THE PEACE OF FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father and the + Son and of the Holy Spirit I forgive all your sins. Rise now in the peace of forgiveness and let us praise the Lord.

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

DISTRIBUTION

PRONOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S PEACE

SUNG RESPONSE:

(Chief of Sinner Though I Be 385)

♪ 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!

Strengthen me, O gracious Lord, 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.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

P: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN:

(Jesus Sinners Does Receive 304)

♪ Jesus sinners does receive. Even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave—Jesus sinners does receive.

