



**Genesis 3:19**

“For dust you are and to dust you  
will return.”

**Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
ASH WEDNESDAY  
March 1, 2017  
Pastor Mark Voss**

## Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayer and repentance. Our attention is especially directed to the innocent sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion 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 the Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lenten Season for us, that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the festival in sincerity and truth.

*Silence for Reflection on God's Love*

## Ash Wednesday Hymn

## “Jesus I Will Ponder Now”

*The words are printed here for your convenience. They can also be found in the red hymn book, Christian Worship, Hymn 98 verses 1 and 2.*

Jesus, I will ponder now On your holy passion;  
With your Spirit me endow For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish  
Of your suffering, pain, and death That I may not perish.  
Make me see your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,  
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And your crucifixion;  
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound you,  
How for them you died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned you.

CW 98 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

## Confession and Absolution

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

**C:** **Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.**

P: Jesus says to his people: *"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven."* His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

**C: Yes I believe.**

P: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

*Silence for Reflection on God's Forgiveness*

## **ASH WEDNESDAY LESSONS**

### ***Return to the Lord!***

*Ash Wednesday calls us to a forty-day journey of repentance and renewal.*

*The ashes upon our hands testify: We are mortal and we will meet God.*

*But we will meet him clean and forgiven through Christ.*

#### **Old Testament – Isaiah 59:12-20**

***In sin we turn our backs on God; in love he turns his back on his Son.***

<sup>12</sup>For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: <sup>13</sup>rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, fomenting oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. <sup>14</sup>So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. <sup>15</sup>Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. <sup>16</sup>He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. <sup>17</sup>He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. <sup>18</sup>According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due. <sup>19</sup>From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along. <sup>20</sup>"The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD.

P: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**C: By his wounds we are healed.**

**Gospel - Luke 18:9-14**  
*A beautiful prayer of confession*

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 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. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "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.' "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."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



**Ash Wednesday Hymn**

***"Jesus I Will Ponder Now"***

CW 98 vv 3 & 4 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see your passion,  
But its cause to me make known And its termination.  
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought your deep affliction;  
This indeed the cause has been Of your crucifixion.

If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,  
Let your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won By your holy passion.  
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!

## When Sorrow Is Something Good

2 Corinthians 7:8-13

<sup>8</sup>Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it--I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while-- <sup>9</sup>yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. <sup>10</sup>Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. <sup>11</sup>See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. <sup>12</sup>So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. <sup>13</sup>By all this we are encouraged.

## Offering

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You may now come forward with your family and friends to receive the sign of the cross with ashes on the top of your hand from Pastor. These ashes symbolize that our sins and death were put on Jesus when he died on the cross.

***“For dust you are and to dust you will return.” Genesis 3:19***

As you are ushered out this evening, you may wash the ashes away at the baptismal font. This symbolizes that in the water of baptism our sins are washed away with the blood of Christ and that no marks of sin remain in us.

***“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life”. Romans 6:1-4***

Please participate only if you choose and feel comfortable doing so. During the imposition of the ashes we will sing the hymns on the following pages.

# Hymn During Imposition of Ashes

## "Savior, When In Dust To You"

CW 124

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.



Sav-ior, when in dust to you Low we bow in hom-age due,  
By your help-less in-fant years, By your life of want and tears,  
By your hour of dire de-spair, By your ag-o-ny of prayer,  
By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, By the sad se-pul-chral stone,



When, re-pen-tant, to the skies Scarce we lift our  
By your days of deep dis-tress In the sav-age  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, Pierc-ing spear, and  
By the vault whose dark a-bode Held in vain the



weep-ing eyes; Oh, by all your pains and woe  
wil-der-ness, By the dread, mys-te-rious hour  
tor-turing scorn, By the gloom that veiled the skies  
ris-ing God, Oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored,



Suf-fered once for us be-low, Bend-ing from your  
Of th'in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r, Turn, oh, turn a  
O'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice, Lis-ten to our  
Might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord, Bend-ing from your



throne on high, Hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
fav-'ring eye, Hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
hum-ble sigh, Hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
throne on high, Hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!



# Hymn During Imposition of Ashes

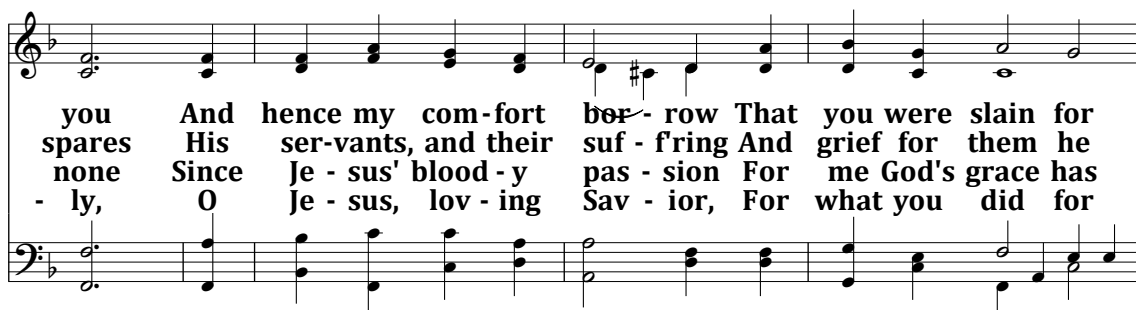
## "When O'er My Sins I Sorrow"

CW 109

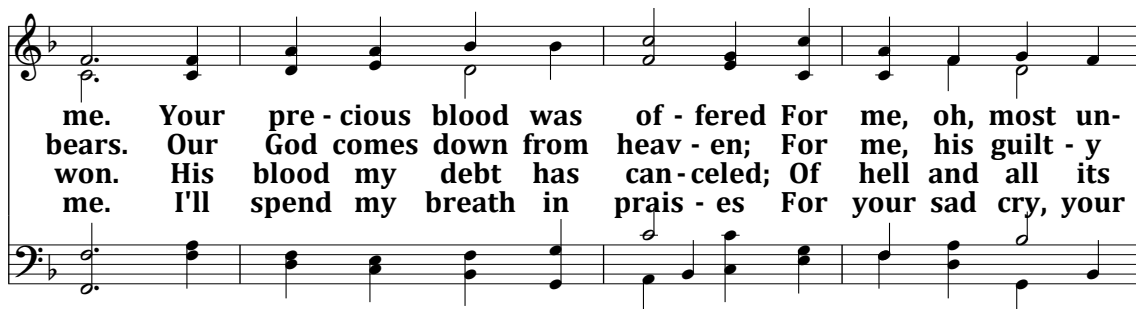
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When o'er my sins I sor- row, Lord, I will look to  
Oh, what a mar-v'lous of - f'ring! Be - hold, the Mas - ter  
My man - i - fold trans - gres - sion Hence - forth can harm me  
There - fore I will for - ev - er Give thanks con - tin - ual-



you And hence my com-fort bor- row That you were slain for  
spares His ser-vants, and their suf - f'ring And grief for them he  
none Since Je - sus' blood - y pas - sion For me God's grace has  
- ly, O Je - sus, lov - ing Sav - ior, For what you did for



me. Your pre - cious blood was of - fered For me, oh, most un-  
bears. Our God comes down from heav - en; For me, his guilt - y  
won. His blood my debt has can - celed; Of hell and all its  
me. I'll spend my breath in prais - es For your sad cry, your



- wor - thy, To take a - way my guilt.  
crea - ture, He deigns as man to die.  
tor - ments I am no more a - fraid.  
suf - f'ring, Your wounds, your guilt - less death.

**Lord's Prayer:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

**Blessing**

**Responsive Prayer**

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

**C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

**C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

**Closing Song - Dismissal and Washing of the Ashes**

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O might - y cross, Love lift - ed high,  
 O might - y cross, what throne of grace,  
 O' might - y cross, O Christ, so pure,  
 O might - y cross, my soul's re - lease;



The Lord of life raised there to die;  
 He knew no sin, yet took my place;  
 Love held Him there, such shame en - dured;  
 The stripes He bore have brought me peace;



His sac - ri - fice on Cal - va - ry  
 His sac - ri - fice on Cal - va - ry  
 His sac - ri - fice on Cal - va - ry  
 His sac - ri - fice on Cal - va - ry



Has made the might - y cross a tree of life to me.  
 Has made the might - y cross a tree of life to me.  
 Has made the might - y cross a tree of life to me.  
 Has made the might - y cross a tree of life to me.