

Ash Wednesday/
A Lenten Journey with Joseph
(Compline)

March 2, 2022 7:00 p.m.



ASH
WEDNESDAY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL.'



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'

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You are invited to use the yellow Prayer Cards located in the pew for prayer requests. Please hand this card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

** Please turn off cellphones **

This service envisions the presence of those who have specifically come to make confession and who desire to receive the personal application and comfort of the absolution of God. This service reflects that the pastor is here dealing with a group – like himself – of repentant Christians. The thrust of this service is in God's absolution imparted to each individual.

AS WE GATHER

Make no mistake. We are not here tonight/today merely to bid "good riddance" to the darkness of winter, to mark the gradual changing of the seasons. We gather on Ash Wednesday in order to come to grips with our sin and mortality. Death is powerful, the wages of sin. You sin, you die. You don't sin, you don't die. "All have sinned" (*Romans 3:23*). As much

as we would like to, on our own we cannot overcome our sin. In our sin, we are dead and thus helpless. Therefore, we gather around the One who was able to defeat sin and death as on the cross He took the power of death and destroyed it, restoring eternal life to all who put their faith in Him, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord.

WHY ASHES

As to the mark of ashes on the foreheads of many Christians on Ash Wednesday. The Jews used ashes as an outward sign of repentance, a practice continued by early Christians. So, while ashes today may remind us of dust and mortality, it is in keeping with Lent to see ashes as signs of our repentance, turning away from sin and being faithful to the Gospel.

The ashes are prepared by burning palm branches. Their use suggests in a dramatic way God's judgment and condemnation of sin, also our frailty and total dependence on God, as well as our humiliation and repentance. The words spoken as ashes are imposed,

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," were first spoken to Adam after his fall into sin. Ashes also, however, speak of cleansing and renewal. Ashes were once used as a cleaning agent. Thus, ashes imposed in the shape of a cross symbolize both judgment *and* baptismal cleansing.

The color for the day is black. This dramatic liturgical color begins the Lenten season and its use is repeated only on Good Friday.

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

We come with a deep sense of our guilt before You, O Lord, and plead nothing but Your mercy, and the love of Jesus, our Savior. You know that we are dust, and have no power of ourselves. We have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. But God, we return, confessing our sins, and renouncing them, praying for grace to be faithful and true. With the help of Your Holy Spirit may we no more be led by our passions and evil desires. Through Your Word and Sacraments help us in this season of Lent to overcome our failings, and to give all our

powers of mind and body to You for Your service.

We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*(Adapted from Our Home Altar by Rev. Philip A. Heilman; 1914
The Lutheran Publication Society; Public domain)*

Our Lenten theme for 2022 will be:

A Lenten Journey with Joseph!

I was so taken with this idea and of how we are brought to the intersection of the patriarch Joseph's life to Jesus' life with our lives that I wanted to share this with you!

It is written by Rev. Michael W. Henrichs, STM, pastor Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, Whitefish Bay, WI. *(It comes from Concordia Pulpit Resources, volume 32, Part 2 March 6- June 5, 2022 Series C)*

He has crafted a very good series that we will all benefit from. Please make plans to be here for the whole series as you're able. It will be well worth it!

The titles are:

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Ash Wednesday: | The Genesis of Joseph | Gen 30:22-24 |
| 2 Midweek 2: | A Wondrous Silence | Gen 37:12-36; Lk 22: 14-31 |
| 3 Midweek 3: | A Miracle of Miracles | Gen 39:1-21; Lk 22: 31-51 |
| 4 Midweek 4: | Wait for the Lord | Gen 41: 9-16; Lk 22: 52-71 |
| 5 Midweek 5: | Chased by a Dirty Conscience | Gen 42: 6-24; Lk 23:1-25 |
| 6 Midweek 6: | God <i>Does</i> Have a Plan | Gen 45:1-15; Lk 23:26-47 |
| 7 Good Friday: | Forgiveness Finished | Gen 50: 15-21; Jn 19:30 |



ASH WEDNESDAY

Compline – LSB 253

March 2, 2022 7:00 p.m.

+ PREPARATION +

Invocation

Stand (turn and face the Processional Cross)

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 how the patriarch Joseph prefigured our Lord Jesus Christ whose holy suffering and death on the cross bring us safely to our home in heaven.

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.

Confession and Absolution *LSB 254*

P We begin our Lenten repentance by confession of our sins and hearing God's promise of forgiveness.

P I confess to almighty God,
C before all the company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters, that
I have sinned in thought, word, and deed
through my fault, through my own fault,
through my own most grievous fault;
wherefore I pray almighty God, for the
sake of Jesus Christ, His Son, to have
mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and
bring me to everlasting life.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus
Christ was given to die for us, and for His
sake God forgives us all our sins. To those
who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the
power to become the children of God and
bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the
Lord, who has begun this good work in us,

bring it to completion in the day of our
Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

The Litany

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P God the Father, in heaven,

C have mercy.

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**

P God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**

(Please turn to follow the cross as it processes forward)

P Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**

P Be gracious to us.
C **Help us, good Lord.**

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;
by Your holy nativity;
by Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and Passion;
by Your precious death and burial;

by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C Help us, good Lord.

P In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment:

C Help us, good Lord.

P To prosper the preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation; to
strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
to give heart to our sorrow and strength to
our repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith, to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes
away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes
away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes
away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,
C have mercy. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

P Let us pray. O God, we beseech You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature and, of Your goodness, deign to bless ✠ and sanctify these ashes to be a sign of our humility and Your pardon of our sins, that we, who acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return, may by Your mercy worthily receive both the pardon of all our sins and the reward which You promise to those who are penitent; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

(At this time, those who wish to receive the mark of ashes upon their forehead may come forward. The ashes are an ancient sign of mortality and death, sorrow and forgiveness, used at the beginning of Lent. All are invited to meditate on Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 103, 130, 143 as found in the front part of the hymnal. You may carry your hymnal forward as you come.)

Stand

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. 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 the wondrous cross of Jesus Christ, Your Son,

our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Verse

Joel 2:13b

P Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful.

C slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Sit + **WORD** +

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 30:22-24

22 Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

23 She conceived and bore a son and said, “God has taken away my reproach.”

24 And she called his name Joseph, saying,
“May the LORD add to me another son!”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Joel 2:12-13

12 “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart, with
fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 and rend your hearts and not your
garments.” Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful, slow to
anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and
he relents over disaster.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

L C O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hymn of the Day (on screen) LSB 574 sts 1-6
“Before the Throne of God Above”

- 1 Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea:
A great High Priest, whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
- 2 My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

- 3 When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin.
- 4 Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.
- 5 Behold Him there! The risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
- 6 At one with Him, I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

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Sermon

**“The Genesis of Joseph”
Pastor Tom Rhodes**

Offering

In quiet devotion and responding in personal stewardship of God's abundant provision to you, please use the offering plates in the back as you enter or exit. (This is just as it says: An offering to God through His church. As a reassurance to those in worship today, especially our guests - this is not an obligation - the good news of Jesus is free to all!)

Stand

Apostles' Creed

LSB 192

**☐ ☑ 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.**

+ **PRAYER** + *LSB 256*

P O almighty and everlasting God, Your people come to You with weeping and mourning over all our sins, yet we give You thanks that You are gracious and merciful to us. Grant to us Your Holy Spirit that our hearts may be contrite, our faith steadfast and immovable, and our hope built securely upon Your cross.

P We praise You for all Your loving care over our lives; for Your Word which accomplishes Your purpose and manifests Your saving glory to the whole world; for those who bring Your Word to us – all pastors, missionaries, church workers and church leaders. Keep us in Your Word that we may rightly divide Your Law and

Gospel and hold fast to the doctrine of the apostles all our days.

Responsory (*spoken in unison*)

C Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your love and compassion.
Have mercy on me, O God, and blot out
my transgressions.

P We remember before You those who stand against Your Word and the reign of Your kingdom – both among the nations and their leaders, and those who have closed off their hearts to the voice of Your mercy. Bring them to repentance, and restore all those who have fallen away or been overcome by error.

P We pray for good weather and good harvest, for good government and good leaders, for good schools and good teachers, for good service from those in the armed services of our nation, police, firefighters, medical and emergency personnel. Protect us against all enemies and from natural and man-made disasters.

Responsory (*spoken in unison*)

C **Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your love and compassion. Have mercy on me, O God, and blot out my transgressions.**

P We invite You into the homes where Your people dwell that they may be places of blessing and faith and love. Help husbands and wives to live in holy love and

to be faithful in the vows and promises they have made. Bless the children in these homes that they may grow up to know You and to love You. Be with the widowed, the families broken by divorce, and the orphans.

P We ask You, O Lord, to teach our hearts gratitude for all Your gifts and generosity toward those in need. Help us to support the poor, to feed the hungry, to assist the unemployed and to care for the hurting. We pray especially for those on our prayer list this week and those in Ukraine that the suffering may find relief, the sick may find healing, the mourning may find comfort, and the dying may find peace in the arms of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Responsory (*spoken in unison*)

C Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your love and compassion.
Have mercy on me, O God, and blot out
my transgressions.

P We beg You to keep us from being
distracted by the things of this world, to
keep us from being overcome by the
chances and changes of this mortal life, and
to be firmly anchored in the arms of Your
mercy and grace in Jesus Christ. As He
came among us to walk in holy life to the
suffering of the cross, help us as we walk
with Him in this Lenten journey, that we
may learn to trust in Him evermore and to
rejoice in what He has accomplished for us
and for our salvation.

P We look forward to the day when all our troubles and trials will be ended and we shall dwell in Your presence forevermore. Until that day comes, keep us faithful and guard us against all our enemies. And when that day comes, O Lord, receive us into the fellowship of all Your saints, in the blessed reunion with those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom be glory and honor, now and forevermore.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13 LSB 257*

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord turn His face toward you and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn (on screen) *LSB 848 sts. 1-4*
“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”

- 1 Lord, whose love through humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Offered mercy’s perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose
Ev’ry gift that You impart.

- 2 Still Your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles
Still to save and make us whole.
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision,
Till Your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness,
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving,
Your abundant life to share.
- 4 Called by worship to Your service,
Forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom
May Your mercy know and live.