

FEBRUARY 17, 2010

so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

**C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

#### BLESSING

**M: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us  
and keep us.**

**C: Amen.**

#### HYMN

Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ (*Christian Worship* 401)

# Zion

EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
AND  
SCHOOL

2600 S. Wadsworth Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80227  
(303) 985-2334

**Divine Services**  
8:00 and 10:30AM

**Bible Study (Youth and Adult)  
and Sunday School**  
9:20AM

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Reaching out with the message of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.  
Holding on to God's unchanging Word.

## Ash Wednesday February 17, 2010

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our forty-day Lenten journey, as we walk to Calvary's cross and consider the Savior's great love for a world of sinners. However, Ash Wednesday is more than just the beginning of the Lenten season. It is a day set aside for repentant reflection.

On Ash Wednesday, we remember the ultimate consequence of our sin: "ashes to ashes, dust to dust." Unless Jesus returns first, each of us will die. Are you ready? There is only one way to prepare ourselves for death: by repentance. True repentance consists of a recognition of our desperate need for a Savior and a simple trust that Jesus is the Righteousness and Life we need.

May God bless us through these forty days of Lent, as we meditate on Jesus' suffering and death for unworthy sinners such as we!



### SERVING THIS EVENING

**Organist:**  
Mrs. Sadie Gawel

## ASH WEDNESDAY

you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

<sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. <sup>20</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

<sup>21</sup> To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (NIV)

### OFFERING

### PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

**M:** Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts, desires, words, and actions that nature produces. Because of our sin, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy on us, for your holy name's sake.**

**M:** You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Lead us to understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake.**

**M:** God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to proclaim boldly the grace in which we stand,

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord!

C: **Amen.**

### FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 24:10-25 (page 377)

### PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 130 (Christian Worship, page 114)

### SECOND LESSON

Revelation 3:14-22 (page 1529)

### VERSE OF THE DAY

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

### HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 18:9-14 (page 1318)

### HYMN OF THE DAY

With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh (Christian Worship 303)

### MEDITATION

Revelation 3:14-22

<sup>14</sup> "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

*These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. <sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish*

### PSALM 51 (read responsively)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion blot out my transgression.

**Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.**

*Silence for reflection.*

Surely I was sinful from birth,  
**sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

**Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;  
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.**

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
**wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness;  
**let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

*Silence for reflection.*

Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will turn back to you.**

*Silence for reflection.*

Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

**O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.**

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT**

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. 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 our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live.

Therefore, God in his mercy sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that, in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the forty days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

*Silence for reflection.*

M: Remember that you are but dust, and to dust you will return.

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

**C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault,  
by our own grievous fault  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.**

M: 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.  
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

**H Y M N**

Savior, When in Dust to You (*Christian Worship* 124)