**Worship Plan for Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

Ash Wednesday

LBW Ash Wednesday Setting Two

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

**Introduction to the day**

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Invitation to Lent**

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus’ passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God’s mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

**Gathering Song*O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (CAITHNESS)* (LBW 99)**

**Confession**

Most holy and merciful Father:

**We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault 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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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 your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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

**we confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**we confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**we confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**we confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**we confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen**

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Prayer of the Day (LBW p. 82)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . .

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

**First Lesson:**

The First Lesson is from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chapter of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

1Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
  sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
 Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
  for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—  
 2a day of darkness and gloom,  
  a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
 Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
  a great and powerful army comes;  
 their like has never been from of old,  
  nor will be again after them  
  in ages to come.  
  
 12Yet even now, says the Lord,  
  return to me with all your heart,  
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
  13rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
 Return to the Lord, your God,  
  for he is gracious and merciful,  
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
  and relents from punishing.  
 14Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
  and leave a blessing behind him,  
 a grain offering and a drink offering  
  for the Lord, your God?  
  
 15Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
  sanctify a fast;  
 call a solemn assembly;  
  16gather the people.  
 Sanctify the congregation;  
  assemble the aged;  
 gather the children,  
  even infants at the breast.  
 Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
  and the bride her canopy.  
  
 17Between the vestibule and the altar  
  let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.  
 Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord,  
  and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
  a byword among the nations.  
 Why should it be said among the peoples,  
  ‘Where is their God?’ ”

Here ends the reading.

**Second Lesson:**

The Second Lesson is from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chapter of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

20bWe entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.  
 6:1As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For he says,   
 “At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
  and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”  
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Here ends the reading.

**Gospel:**

The Holy Gospel according to St. \_\_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_\_ chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.  
  2“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 3But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.  
  5“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 6But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.  
  16“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 17But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.  
  19“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; 20but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon (LBW p. 83)**

**Hymn of the Day*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* (WOV 734)**

[Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (Melody).tif](file:///C:\Users\jbart\AppData\Local\Temp\Temp1_Worship%20Plan%20for%20%20Wednesday,%20February%2017,%202021.zip\Softly%20and%20Tenderly%20Jesus%20Is%20Calling%20(Melody).tif)

**The Prayers**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

O God, you call your church to be ministers of reconciliation throughout the world. Inspire your church in its proclamation of the gospel and guide its ministries to build up the body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants and you declared that it is good. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the well-being of all people and raise up advocates to speak and serve on behalf of the downtrodden. Lord, in your mercy.

**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (especially) and support caregivers who attend to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are love, and you call us to love one another. Accompany with your grace those journeying toward baptism and call us all to repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are our life and our salvation. We give you thanks for the righteous who have died in faith. Inspire us by their example to proclaim your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

the fountain of living water,

the rock who gave us birth,

our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters

and by your Word you created the world,

calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,

making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit,

and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Imposition of Ashes**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us

that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

**Prayer of Blessing (LBW p. 201)**

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these men and women your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen**

**Peace (LBW p. 201)**

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

**Dialogue (LBW p. 87)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**INSTRUCTION OF COMMUNION AT HOME**

Let us pray,

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,

be present with those who partake and share your word and sacrament. We remember you in the celebration of the sacrament and remember that you unite us as the body of Christ whether we are together in-person or together while apart.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament,

and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence

through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

At this point in the service, for those at home, please bring bread and drink for communion, preferably wine or grape juice but it can also be water. For those in attendance, we invite you to bring your own bread to the service, if you have done so please take it out now. If you don't have any and would like some please raise your hand and the ushers will bring you pre-packaged bread. If you have communion elements gathered, I'd invite you to share with anyone in your household, and if you do not, know that the restoration and healing found in this sacrament still reaches you wherever you are.

While worshipping during the pandemic, we will be instituting communion a bit differently. These Words of Institution bless the eucharistic elements wherever you are, trusting in the all-reaching power and grace of God to provide the complete and total sacrament to us in these extraordinary times when we come to Christ's table in our own way and our own place. Once you have your eucharistic elements of bread and drink, and after the words of institution, you may commune yourself along with anyone else in your household. For those in attendance, if you would be more comfortable not removing your mask, you may wait to partake in your communion until you are outside or at home. In all cases, you may commune saying:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

And so,

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

**Thanksgiving (LBW p. 89)**

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.*

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him should not perish,

but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith

as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord’s Prayer (LBW p. 91)**

**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.**

**Communion (LBW p. 91)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

**Post-Communion Prayer (LBW p. 94)**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Sending Song*Be Thou My Vision* (WOV 776)**

**Blessing (LBW p. 94)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen**

**Dismissal (LBW p. 94)**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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