



Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021 + 6:30 P.M.

Psalm 51 is one of the foremost of the psalms of instruction. In it David truly teaches us what sin is, where it comes from, what damage it does – and how one may be freed from it. In this psalm, as nowhere else, it is clearly shown that sin is an inheritance, born in us, and that no works can help us against it, on God's grace and forgiveness.

Through His Spirit He creates us new again, as a new person, a new creation.

~ Martin Luther, Summaries of the Psalms, 1531 A.D.

Make me hear of 'joy and gladness,*
that the body you have broken 'may rejoice.

Hide your face 'from my sins,*
and blot out all 'my iniquities.

C: Antiphon



L: Create in me a clean 'heart, O God,*
and renew a right spir'it within me.

Cast me not away 'from your presence,*
and take not your Holy 'Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving 'help again,*
and sustain me with your boun'tiful Spirit.

**All: Glory to the Father, and 'to the Son,*
and to the 'Holy Spirit;
as it was in 'the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. 'Amen**

C: Antiphon



READING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Please kneel. Silence for reflection and self-examination.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Most holy and merciful Father:

C: 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.

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our cursing and misuse of your holy name; our negligence in prayer and worship,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our family disagreements and broken commitments, our disrespect for the authorities that you have established,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs that we have done. For our blindness to human suffering and need, our indifference to injustice and cruelty, our hatred, and our devaluing of life,

C: we repent to you, Lord.

P: For our impure and evil lusts; for our love of worldly goods, entertainment, and comfort, and for our unwise use of nature,

C: we repent to you, Lord.

It can only be well with men, when they have an equal respect for all of God's commandments. God will justify us from our sins, but He will not justify the least sin in us. He is a God 'of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong' (Habakkuk 1:13).

*~ John Owen,
The Mortification of Sin, 1656
A.D.*

Jesus was all people in one person. His resurrection was the Father's declaration of "not guilty" for the world. But another day is also coming. All those who refused to believe in this verdict will be judged of their own guilt. But for those in Jesus, this final judgment will be joyful, for "there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).

*~ Chad Bird,
Unveiling
Mercy,
2020 A.D.*

P: For all false judgments and prejudice, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for all dishonesty in daily life and work,

C: we repent to you, Lord.

P: For our jealousy, our envy of others' blessings and goods, and for self-indulgent ways,

C: we repent to you, Lord.

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

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

Please be seated.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those desiring to receive ashes come forward to the steps of the chancel. When all have returned to their places, please stand.

ABSOLUTION

P: 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 passion of your Son, our Lord,

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

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but that they turn from their evil ways and live. Upon this your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Joel 2:12-19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and 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. 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; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” ¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

^{5:20b}We implore 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. ^{6:1}Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as

As we sit in our pews this Ash Wednesday, feeling good about feeling bad, thinking that by my confession and repentance alone we are making things right between us and God, we are deeply and dangerously wrong. The cross of ashes upon our foreheads points us, finally, to the truth, because it betokens the Christ of the cross, in whom we are made deeply and beautifully right. . .

servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L: The Word of the Lord.

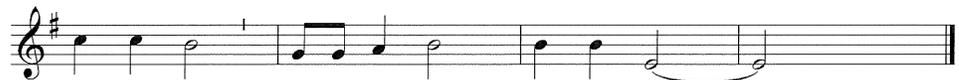
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

VERSE



☐ Christ hath hum - bled him - self, and be - come o - be - dient



un - to death: ev - en the death of the Cross.____

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ [Jesus said,] "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the

synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

APOSTLES CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

C: **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.

. . .Because of him, and him alone, we learn to love Lent for all the right reasons. In Jesus we are reconciled to the Father, adopted as his children, and on our brows is written the very name of the Lord himself (Rev. 22:4).

*~ Chad Bird,
1517.org,
2016 A.D.*

*I believe in
God, the Fa-
ther Al-
mighty,
Maker of
heaven and
earth.*

*What does
this mean?*

*I believe God
has made me
and all crea-
tures; that He
has given me
my body and
soul, eyes,
ears, and all
my members,
my reason
and all my
senses, and
still takes care
of them. . .*

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✕ everlasting. Amen

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Savior, When In Dust to Thee"



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -
2 By Thy help - less in - fant years. By Thy life of
3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan. By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When. re - pen - tant, to the skies
want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
pul - chral stone. By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O
veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
heav'n re - stored. Might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord. Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

SERMON

“God, the Father Almighty”

OFFERTORY

As the pastors prepare the altar for the Holy Supper, we prepare for the Supper through prayer and praise.

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us” *(sung by the congregation)*



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Please stand.

*... All this
He does only
out of father,
divine good-
ness and
mercy, with-
out any merit
or worthiness
in me. For all
this it is my
duty to thank
and praise,
serve and
obey Him.
This is most
certainly
true.*

*~ Martin Lu-
ther, Small
Catechism,
1529 A.D.*

The Lord commanded his apostles to pray for forgiveness of sin every day just as we pray daily for bread...no child of God is perfect and without sin in this life. Everyone has need every day to humble himself and to pray for forgiveness of his sins... Those who are baptized and reconciled to God are commanded to continually pray for the forgiveness of their sins.

~ Martin Chemnitz, The Lord's Prayer, 1598 A.D.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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**

ACCLAMATION

P: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

AGNUS DEI

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. The pastor will hand you the holy Body. Please take a cup of the holy Blood as directed. Those who do not commune may cross their arms over their chest as they come forward to ask for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

*Save us, O
LORD our
God, and
gather us
from among
the nations,
that we may
give thanks to
your holy
name and
glory in your
praise.*

*~ Psalm
106:47*

Blessed is he
 whose help is
 the God of
 Jacob, whose
 hope is in the
 Lord his God,
 who made
 heaven and
 earth, the sea,
 and all that is
 in them, who
 keeps faith
 forever; who
 executes jus-
 tice for the
 oppressed,
 who gives
 food to the
 hungry.

~ Psalm
 146:4-6

COMMUNION HYMN "Glory Be to Jesus"
(sung by the congregation)



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
 2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
 3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
 4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!
 Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!
 Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!
 But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

- 5 Oft as earth exulting
 Wafts its praise on high,
 Angel hosts rejoicing
 Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices,
 Swell the mighty flood;
 Louder still and louder
 Praise the precious blood!

After all have communed, please stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

P: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now
 and forever.

C: Amen

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

Preaching: The Rev. Christopher Johnson

Presiding: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Elder: Robb Halverson

Acolyte: Brennan Hochberger

Altar Guild: Bonnie Glasel; Donna Nuernberg

Acknowledgements

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“Christ hath humbled himself ...”: Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB129062. All rights reserved.

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“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”: Text and Tune: Public Domain.

“Glory Be to Jesus”: Text and Tune: Public Domain.

**A Prayer
As You Go**

Lord, protect us in our struggle against evil. As we begin the discipline of Lent, make this season holy by our self-denial. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

~ For All
the Saints,
Vol. I,
p,771

Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde
Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson
Int. Assoc. Pastor Theodore B. Gulhaugen
Kantor Irene Beethe
Office Manager Pam Gabriel
Secretary Anna Mae Zeinemann
Deployed Chaplain Joseph C. Pinzl

To contact us by email:
zion@zionlutheranwausau.com

To visit our webpage:
www.zionlutheranwausau.com

Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

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