



Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023 + 6:30 P.M.

Midweek Preaching Series:

**“Take Heart:
Overcoming a World of Loss”**

*Every Wednesday in Lent + 12:15 and 6:30 PM
Soup-to-Go, 1-3 PM + Soup Suppers, 5:15-6:15 PM*

What have you lost? It seems we’re always losing something: time, money, relationships, loved ones, dreams, and even our selves. In many ways, loss sets the conditions of human life. Does God have anything to say to such a world of loss?

Feb. 22: Losing Our Selves: Overcoming Sin
March 1: Losing Relationships: Overcoming Separation
March 8: Losing Loved Ones: Overcoming Death
March 15: Losing Dreams: Overcoming Disappointment
March 22: Losing Our Grip: Overcoming Need
March 29: Losing Faith: Overcoming Doubt

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please stand.

PSALM 51

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | lovingkindness;*
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,*
and cleanse me | from my sin.

For I know | my transgressions,*
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

Against you only | have I sinned*
and done what is evil | in your sight.

And so you are justified | when you speak*
and upright | in your judgment.

Indeed, I was born in- | to iniquity,*
a sinner from | my conception.

C: Antiphon



Have mer-cy on me, O God, ac-cord-ing to your lov-ing kind-ness.

L: For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,*
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;*
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.

*Unless you
repent, you
will all like-
wise perish.
~ Our Lord
Jesus
Christ,
Luke 13:5*

*O Lord, who
hast mercy
upon all,
take away
from me my
sins, and
mercifully
kindle in me
the fire of thy
Holy Spirit.
Take away
from me the
heart of stone,
and give me a
heart of flesh,
a heart to love
and adore
Thee,
a heart to de-
light in Thee,
to follow and
enjoy Thee,
for Christ's
sake, Amen.
~ Ambrose of
Milan,
337-397
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



Have mer - cy on me, O God, ac - cord - ing to your lov - ing kind - ness.

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 be 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



Have mer - cy on me, O God, ac - cord - ing to your lov - ing kind - ness.

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.**

*Our Lord
carried the
cross and suffered
death.
Now we carry
the sign of
that cross to
confess that
His death was
for us, children
of dust and ashes
who likewise
suffer death.
Death,
whether
worked in our
flesh by sin or
in our souls
by repentance,
has become the
meeting place
in which our
Lord greets
us and says:
"Take heart!
I have overcome
the world!"
~ C. K. Yardley,
Reflections on
Ash
Wednesday*

Good Friday at the end of Lent is the commemoration of the death and burial of Jesus. Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent is the commemoration of our death and burial. Today the words spoken by God to Adam are spoken to us: "Thou art dust and to dust shalt thou return." ~ David Scaer, 1990 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.

Choral Meditation:

"Touch Me with Ashes"

... Stacey Nordme

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

COLLECT

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that lamenting of our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from you full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.**

*This day,
which marks
the beginning
of Lent, is 40
days before
Easter*

*(Sundays are
not included
in the count.)*

*The theme of
the day is
repentance,
which in*

*some
churches is*

*visually de-
picted by the
placing of*

*ashes on the
forehead*

*while the
words of Gen.
3:19 are spo-
ken: "From
dust you are
and to dust
you will re-
turn."*

*~ Liturgical
Glossary,
Lutheran
Commis-
sion on
Worship,
2001 A.D.*

God was in Christ, that is to say, the Father was in the Son, reconciling the world to himself, not counting their sins against them. Creation had sinned against God and did not repent, so God, who did not want his work to perish, sent his Son in order to preach through him the forgiveness of sins and thus reconcile them to himself.
 ~ Ambrosi-aster,
 370 A.D.

EPISTLE 2 Peter 1:2-11

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

L: The Word of the Lord.

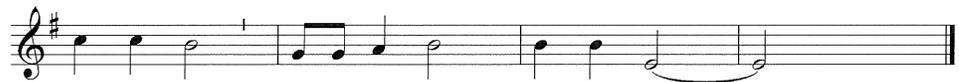
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

VERSE



C 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“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. ⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread,

¹²and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. 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

*Lord, let Thy
holy breath
ever keep alive
in us that fire
which Thy
Son of old
came to kindle
upon earth,
that we also
may be
anointed with
the spirit of
peace, holi-
ness, and obe-
dience, and
dwell in Thy
fellowship for-
ever. Amen.
~ Rowland
Williams
(d.1870)*

be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”

... LSB #607

The Choir will sing Stanza 4

*When the
stomach is
full, it is easy
to talk of fast-
ing.*

*~ Jerome,
300s A.D.*

SERMON

“Losing Ourselves: Overcoming Sin”

OFFERTORY “Savior, When In Dust to Thee”

... LSB #419

Please stand.

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 truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:

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

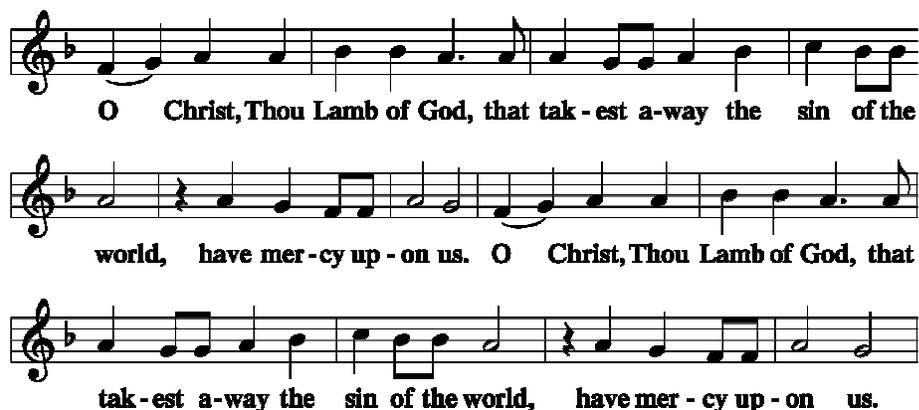
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

*God has
enough of all
good things
except one:
Of commun-
ion with hu-
man beings
God can
never have
enough.
~Mechthild
of
Magdeburg
13th
Century
A.D.*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Our Lord gives His holy Body and Blood to those who are baptized in order to strengthen their union with Him and with the Church. He therefore invites to this Supper those who 1) are baptized, 2) trust that they eat His body and drink His blood, and 3) desire to set aside all divisions between themselves, God, and His Church.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us” ... LSB #915

“Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing” ... LSB #421

After all have communed, please stand.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev-er may Your work e-rase;
Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,

It is a snare to imagine that God wants to make us perfect specimens of what He can do. Rather, God's purpose is to make us one with Himself.
~Oswald Chambers, 1935 A.D.



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

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

**A Prayer
As You Go**
O Lord Je-
sus Christ,
Son of God,
have mercy
on me, a sin-
ner. Amen
~ an ancient
prayer de-
signed to be
prayed
throughout
the day

Serving at Worship

Presiding: The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Choir: The Zion Kantorei

Acolyte: Tyler Pagel

Communion Assistants: Rob Kittel, Sheryl Morris

Usher: Mark Gehrke

Altar Guild: Bonnie Glasel; Bonnie Waack

Acknowledgements

The liturgy is reprinted from the Lutheran Service Book via Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House, unless otherwise indicated. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

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
Kantor Irene Beethe
Office Manager Jessica G. Ray
Custodian Cody Augustine
Deployed Chaplain Joseph C. Pinzl
Pastor Emeritus Theodore B. Gulhaugen

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)

Member Congregation of Lutheran Core
www.lutherancore.org