

ASH WEDNESDAY

The Paradox of the Two Desires of Christ

February 14, 2024

AS WE GATHER

This Lenten Season we are going through the Paradox's of the Passion of Jesus Christ. Tonight we begin with one of the most confusing and yet astounding. Jesus is kneeling in the Garden praying to the Father. We find him in agony, sweating drops of blood out of anxiety. What is he praying? Father take this cup from me. He knew what he was about to do, he knew the pain and suffering that awaited him- and he did not want to do it! Yet he also offered up another prayer, not my will but yours be done. He knew that the Father had a plan, and Father's plan was more important than his own. Oh if only Adam had uttered a similar prayer in the Garden of Eden, and resisted Satan even to the point of shedding blood! Then we would not need Ash Wednesday at all! Yet here in the paradox of the two natures and desires of Jesus Christ as true man and true God we find our hope and salvation. It is found there on the cross upon which he both desired and did not desire to go.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN #435 "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of
the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PSALM

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

People: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

People: according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

People: and cleanse me from my sin!

Pastor: For I know my transgressions,

People: and my sin is ever before me.

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: and renew a right spirit within me.

Pastor: Cast me not away from your presence,

People: and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

People: and uphold me with a willing spirit. 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.

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

People: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ADDRESS FOR IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: 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 the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times, the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self denial, and humble repentance borne 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.

As the ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

HYMN DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

HYMN #419 "Savior, When in Dust to Thee"

Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears,
By Thy days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour
Of the insulting tempter's pow'r,
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye; Hear our penitential cry!

By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies O'er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh; Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,
O, from earth to heav'n restored, Mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!

6:00 CHOIR "In Adam We Have All Been One"

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor: The ashes of our sin remind us of the curse of death and our need for your redemption.

People: For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and renew us. Mark us with your cross and take our sins from us. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy delivered His Son over to the death of the cross to bear the burden of our brokenness, becoming sin for us "so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." The ashes of your sin have been taken away and you have been marked and redeemed by Christ, the Crucified. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who come to you in repentance and faith.

People: Cleanse us from the ashes of our sin that we may hold fast to the promise that we have been marked and redeemed by the Christ, the Crucified,

Pastor: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Joel 2:12–19* ("Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful.")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.¹⁴ Who 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?¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;¹⁶ gather 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.¹⁷ Between 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?'"¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people.¹⁹ The 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Pastor: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

People: the founder and perfecter of our faith,

Pastor: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

People: and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 12:1-6*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to 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. ³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

VERSE

Pastor: Return to the Lord, your God,

People: for He is gracious and merciful,

Pastor: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,

People: and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 22:37-46*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁷For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment." ³⁸And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."

³⁹And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." ⁴¹And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴²saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me.

Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." ⁴³And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

⁴⁴And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation

came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come.

Amen.

SERMON HYMN #440 "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.

Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.

Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been Of Your crucifixion.

9 continued

Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?

If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!

Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

SERMON

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

Page 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise) **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the name of the Lord our God to be held sacred in our congregation and throughout the world, that His Word be taught in its truth and purity and we, as the children of God, live holy lives according to it, as those who have been marked and redeemed by Christ, the crucified, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: For the blessing of all who have been named and claimed by Christ and who seek to carry out His Great Commission, that when we face a world that struggles under the curse of sin and in the ashes of death, we may rejoice in the assurance of our Savior's never-failing grace, love, and deliverance, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: For the well-being of all the world, especially the community, the schools, the workplaces, and the families in our midst, that our creator and provider would supply all that we need and enable us to dwell in peace and security, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: For the restoration of all who are broken in heart, body, mind, spirit, and relationships, that times of difficulty would lead all who struggle to seek refuge in the support of others and, ultimately, to receive the eternal treasures of the sure mercies of our God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: For the healing of those who are struggling with medical issues and battling various types of illnesses, that Jesus, our healer of both body and soul, would hear our prayers and grant mercy to them all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: For the answering of these and all other prayers that we boldly bring before the throne of grace, that we take confidence in God as our Father, who has marked us with the cross of His Son and redeemed us by His blood so that the ashes of our sin may be replaced by the beauty of His righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lamb of God, have mercy upon us. Answer our prayers in the way that best brings glory to your holy name. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray. (Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #418 "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

O Lord, throughout these forty days
You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin,
And free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and You won;
Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust
In God's eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed
And fixed Your mind above;
So teach us to deny ourselves,
Since we have known God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord,
And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns,
We join in heaven's praise.

HYMN #424 "O Christ, You Walked the Road"

O Christ, you walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r
And fought our ancient foe.

No bread of earth alone Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food Your grace imparts.

No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love.

When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
Our wills with Yours align.

O Christ, you walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour
To fight our ancient foe.

HYMN #571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

(Rise) Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

COMMON DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, who in love and mercy sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank you that you have given us pardon and peace in this Supper.

People: Grant us the faith to always trust that because of your Son's death and resurrection, the treasures of heaven have been delivered to us by faith in your promises;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SENTENCES

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: and renew a right spirit within me.

Pastor: Cast me not away from your presence,

People: and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

People: and uphold me with a willing spirit.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #436 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
Grant Gundersen, Debbie Nier
Deaconess Carole King