



*ASH*  
*wednesday*

*7:00p ~ February 10, 2016*

**WELCOME and RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE**

**OPENING HYMN** “Lord Jesus, Think on Me” *[LW 231]*

**INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: As this season of Lent begins, O God, we confess to You that we need to return to You. We’ve wandered and lost focus, and have diverted from Your ways. We have done what we wish we had not, and have left undone what would bring us to health and wholeness.**

**Now we long to hear Your voice. We wait for Your mercy to pour over us – for Your kindness to restore our souls. Penetrate our inmost being, Author of Life; know us with Your love; create purity within – a palate on which You can paint the beauty of Your Mystery. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, from the dust of the earth You have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by Your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**PRAYER of the DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, out of Your love and mercy You breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve You and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## WORDS of CONSECRATION

P: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those called to His supper.

**C: We do not presume to come to Your table, O merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under Your table.**

**But You are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,**

**so to eat the flesh of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, and so to drink His blood,  
that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Note: As you come forward for communion, you will receive the ashes on your forehead with these words, "The cross of Christ for you." You may receive ashes without communing or commune without receiving ashes. Please talk to children with you about their baptism and invite them to receive the ashes if they are willing. Wash the ashes later tonight with the words: "I am baptized. I am forgiven. I am washed clean."*

## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

**"My Song Is Love Unknown"** [LW 91, verses 1-5]

**"I Come, O Savior, to Your Table"** [LW 242]

**"Christ, the Life of All the Living"** [LW 94]

**"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"** [LW 115]

## HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-15 [NIV 84]

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

<sup>7</sup>And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup>“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
<sup>10</sup>your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us today our daily  
bread. <sup>12</sup>Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’

<sup>14</sup>For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive  
you. <sup>15</sup>But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## ANTHEM

“Peace I Give You”

Craig Courtney

*Voices of Peace*

## SERMON

## PRAYERS

## CLOSING PRAYER

P: God of compassion, through Your Son Jesus Christ,  
You reconciled Your people to Yourself.

**C: Following His example of prayer and fasting,  
May we obey You with willing hearts,  
And serve one another in holy love,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE LORD’S PRAYER *The Family Prayer of the People of God*

P: 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. [*Numbers 6:24-26*]

**C: We are marked with God’s name,  
And we now live under the sign of the cross! Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

SERMON: *Rev. James R. Mueller*  
LITURGIST: *Rev. Morgan Hamilton*