Holy Gospel – Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Following the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Offertory Hymns  “Savior, When in Dust to Thee” (stanza 1)

Service of the Sacrament – LSB 194

Sit

Distribution Hymn

419 “Savior, When in Dust to Thee” (stanzas 2–4)

607 “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”

The choir sings stanza 3 in a setting by Friedrich Zachau.

Stand

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction – LSB 200

Concerning the Imposition of Ashes

A contemporary Lutheran appropriation of the Imposition of Ashes begins with the twofold biblical understanding of ashes as a sign of our mortality and as a sign of our repentance. The traditional formula, “Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” paraphrases the words of God in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:19). By receiving the ashes, the worshiper acknowledges that God’s judgment against our sin is right and just. But the ashes are also made in the sign of the cross—the very instrument by which our Lord—standing in our place—took upon himself the punishment for our sin. Thus, the cross of ashes serves to remind us that we are sinners and that Christ died for us sinners.

(Drawn from the Commission on Worship supplement insert to the Reporter, February 2005 © The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Used by permission.)

Ash Wednesday
18 February 2015

Reverend Peter Brock
St. John Lutheran Church, Decatur, IN
Preacher and Celebrant

Communicants at this altar are to be in full confessional fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. If there are spiritual concerns that may affect your comming here, please contact the Celebrant or President Rast before the service.

Divine Service

Setting Three – LSB 184

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 born 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.

Kneel

O Lord,

have mercy.

O Christ,

have mercy.

O Lord,

have mercy.

O Christ,

hear us.

God the Father in heaven,

have mercy.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

have mercy.

God the Holy Spirit,

have mercy.

Be gracious to us.
Spare us, good Lord.
P Be gracious to us.

Help us, good Lord.
P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;
by Your holy nativity;
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion;
by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

Help us, good Lord.
P In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment:

Help us, good Lord.
P We poor sinners implore You
to hear us, O Lord.

to prosper the preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation;
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

To draw all to Yourself;
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely,
the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in our need of prayers;
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;
and to have mercy on us all:

We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;
and to graciously hear our prayers:

We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
we implore You to hear us.

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy.

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy.

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us Your peace.

O Christ,

hear us.

O Lord,

have mercy.

O Christ,

have mercy.

O Lord,

have mercy. Amen.

O God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from
their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the
frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to
dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the
promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sit

Imposition of Ashes

The pastor and assistants receive ashes first, followed by the congregation. Those who
wish to receive ashes may come down the center aisle and proceed to the next available
assistant, who places the ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross,
saying:

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

After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his or her place. Silence is kept while
the choir sings Psalm 51 in a setting by Donald Rotermund.

When all are finished, the service continues with Confession and Absolution.

Stand

Confession and Absolution – LSB 184

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . . .

Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading – Joel 2:12–19

Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Stand