

Ash Wednesday  
February 17, 2021



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
901 Cornwall Crescent  
Dawson Creek, BC

## AS WE GATHER

As we begin this Lenten season, we once again hear that call to return to the Lord, our God. God says, “Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments” (Joel 2:12–13). Once again, we return from our wandering to our gracious and merciful God who has paved the way for us to be reconciled to Him through His Son, Jesus. “For our sake He made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:20). Because of Jesus, our heavenly Father rewards us with the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live lives of righteous service in His name.

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**      *Joel 2:12–19*

(A proclamation: Return to the Lord.)

**HYMN # 915 - “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”**

### INVOCATION

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

**People:**            **Amen.**

### SALUTATION

**Pastor:**            The Lord be with you.

**People:**            **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting 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.

**People: Amen.**

**EPISTLE**      *2 Corinthians 5:20*

Lector:            This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:            Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**            *Psalms 51:1–13; antiphon v. 17*

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:            Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,

**People:            so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

Pastor:            Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**People:            Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

Pastor:            Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**People:            wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Pastor:            Let me hear joy and gladness;

**People:            let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**

Pastor: Hide Your face from my sins,  
**People: and blot out all my iniquities.**

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.**

Pastor: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners  
will return to You.  
**People: 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**     *Genesis 3:19*

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, You spoke to Adam and  
Eve in the garden and said, “You are dust, and to dust  
you shall return.” Your people of ancient times wore  
sackcloth and ashes as a sign of repentance. We  
remember our sinfulness through the ashes and  
remember the gracious gift of forgiveness through the  
cross of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**People: Amen.**

*The ashes are an ancient sign of mortality and death, sorrow and  
forgiveness, used at the beginning of Lent.*

## **ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our God has called us to  
return to Him so that we might be reconciled and receive

the reward of His forgiveness. The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:**           **Amen.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**           *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21* (Our God who sees what we do in secret rewards us.)

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

**People:**           **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor:           This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**           **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SERMON**           *Feeling Good about Feeling Bad*

**HYMN #560 - “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”**

**THE LITANY**

Pastor:           O Lord,

**People:**           **have mercy.**

Pastor:           O Christ,

**People:**           **have mercy.**

Pastor:           O Lord,

**People:**           **have mercy.**

Pastor:           O Christ,

**People:**           **hear us.**

Pastor:           God the Father in heaven,

**People:**           **have mercy.**

Pastor:           God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**People:**           **have mercy.**

Pastor:           God the Holy Spirit,

**People:**           **have mercy.**

Pastor:           Be gracious to us.

**People:**           **Spare us, good Lord.**

Pastor:           Be gracious to us.

**People:**           **Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor:           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:

**People:**           **Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor:           In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**People:**           **Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor:           We poor sinners implore You

**People:**           **to hear us, O Lord.**

Pastor:           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:

**People:**           **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor:           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 need of our prayers, [*especially*];  
give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and have mercy on us all:

**People:**           **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

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

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**People: we implore You to hear us.**

Pastor: 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 Your own; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**     *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

#### **PAX DOMINI**

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

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION***Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** People of God, who have returned and are reconciled and rewarded, receive the blessing of our Lord.

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.

**HYMN # 427 - “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**

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