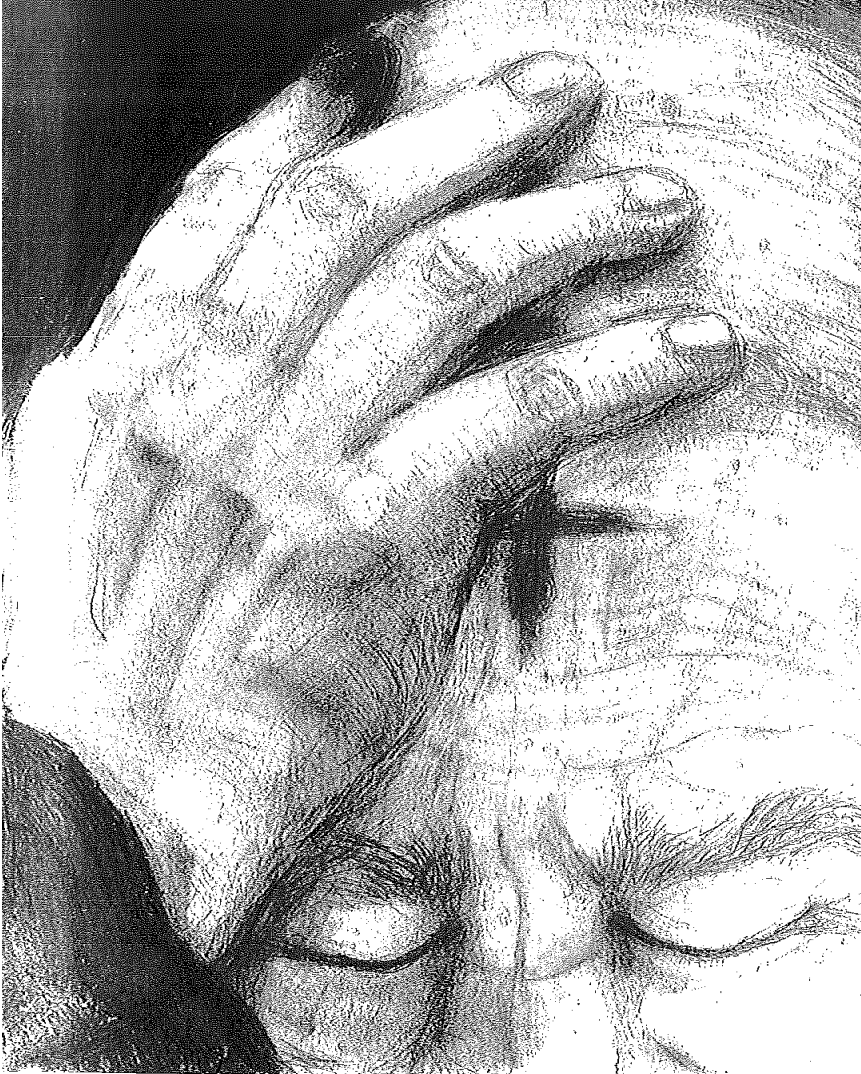


Ash Wednesday Worship
February 17th, 2021
6:30 pm Online Worship Service



Drawn by Lisa Kill

*Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:13*

Lent begins with a call to repentance and confession of our sin. The sign of ashes reminds us of our mortality and frailty. The cross on our forehead is also a sign of our baptism, that we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness and joined to Christ's death and resurrection. God alone changes our hearts and lives away from living only for ourselves to see that only Jesus Christ can rescue us from our sin.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

P Blessed be the God of grace, who bears our burdens and saves us from sin.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PSALM 51:1-12

Led by Pastor Ryan (*Verses*) & Pastor Lisa (*Refrain*)

Refrain:

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

The image shows a musical score for the refrain of Psalm 51:1-12. It consists of two systems of music. The first system is a single melodic line in G major (one flat) on a treble clef staff. The lyrics "Have mer - cy on me, O God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love." are written below the notes. The second system is a piano accompaniment in G major on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The piano part features a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

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 offenses,
and my sin is ev- ' er before me.
Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ' in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right ' in your judgment. *Refrain*

Indeed, I was born ' steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ' mother's womb.
Indeed, you delight in truth ' deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ' deep within.

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ' shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- ' er than snow.
Let me hear ' joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken ' may rejoice. *Refrain*

Hide your face ' from my sins,
and blot out ' all my wickedness.
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 Spir-' it from me.
Restore to me the joy of ' your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- ' tiful Spirit. *Refrain*

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Joel 2:13

*Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

Isaiah 58:1-12

Matthew 6:19-21

SERMON

Pastor Lisa Richardson Engen

Led by Pastor Ryan and Pastor Lisa, verses 1 and 2

In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.

All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

**When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(The pastors and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord with *Peace be with you*)

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

To find additional ways to support the mission & ministry of Abiding Savior,
please visit the following page:

<http://abidingsavior.org/OutreachPro/give-to-abiding-savior/>

OFFERTORY Janelle Schauer

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

C Oh God, in marking our foreheads in dust we acknowledge our own mortality, the fragility of life, and that we all will die and return to the earth.

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

P The tracing of the cross on our foreheads also reminds us of the indelible mark on our foreheads given in baptism. God has rescued us and given us life. Through the cross we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection. Because of Christ's life-giving love and mercy, from the dust we shall rise again.

P Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Change our hearts and lives away from living only for ourselves, but to serve you and live in love. 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 and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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 Savior,

C Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C Amen.

Led by Pastor Ryan and Pastor Lisa

Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land, a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.

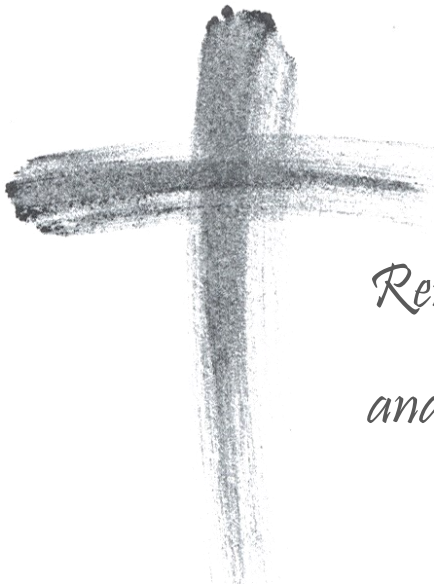
Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

SENDING

P Go in peace, remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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

ABOUT THE ASHES

The Imposition of Ashes is an ancient and biblical practice full of meaning and appropriate for this day we call Ash Wednesday. Marking the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday focuses on repentance and confession of sin – disciplines that Christians desire to practice throughout lent as we lead up to the cross on Good Friday.

Repentance is the major theme of Ash Wednesday, and the bible has many examples that “ashes” and “dust” were used as a literal and visual expression of repentance. Jesus rebukes the cities of Chorazin and Bethesda for not repenting...even Tyre and Sidon, says Jesus, would have repented **“in sackcloth and ashes” if they had seen Jesus’ powerful works.** (Mathew 11:20-21). In the Book of Job, we read that after being chastised by God for his outburst, Job says, **“Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”** (Job 42:6) Just after all the calamities befell him, Job (in sorrow) **“sat among the ashes”** (Job 2:8). When Jonah walked through the streets of Ninevah and proclaimed the Lord’s destruction of the great city, we are told, **“when the news reached the King of Ninevah, he rose from the throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.”** (Jonah 3:6)

Human Mortality. Similarly, ashes can signify human mortality – our total dependence on God for Life; **“You turn us back to dust and say, ‘Turn back, you mortals’”** (Psalm 90:3); **“When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.”** (Psalm 104:29) (See also Ecclesiastes 3:20 and 12:7) Certainly we all recall the haunting words at the gravesite from the funeral liturgy: **“Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”** (ELW p.284)

Humility before God is another aspect of “dust and ashes.” In bargaining with God to save Lot from destruction of Sodom, Abraham speaks to the Lord, **“Let me take it upon myself to speak to the lord, I who am but dust and ashes.”** (Genesis 18:27)

“Create in Me Clean Heart, O God”...More than anything, God cares about our **hearts**, not our outward actions. Imposing ashes on myself is meaningless unless it is but an outward sign of what is happening in my heart, my acknowledgment before God that I am but mortal, and I have lived in sin. Therefore, **the Imposition of Ashes is optional** and no one should feel compelled to participate. For those of us who receive ashes today, let it be an outward sign of what is happening in our hearts, of our acknowledgement that only Jesus Christ can rescue us from our sin.

Pastoral and Musical Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ryan D. Brodin

Pastor

Rev. Elisa Richardson Engen

Organist

Janelle Schauer

Deacon & Youth Director

Brad Mills

+ + +

If you are in need of a church home, we invite you to
worship at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.

Lenten Worship Service Schedule:

Wednesdays, 6:30 PM ~ Lenten Services

Maundy Thursday ~ TBD

Good Friday ~ TBD

Easter Sunday ~ TBD

You Are Welcome Here!



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