

THE SIGN OF JONAH

February 22, A†D 2023



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday-2023

440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession of Sin

The Sign of Ashes In the Word and in the World

- P** Gracious Lord, ashes remind us of our human frailty and mortality. As a sign of our heart-felt repentance and sorrow, the sign of the cross is made upon our foreheads.
C **Keep us mindful, O Lord, of our need for grace. Amen.**

(Ashes speak of condemnation for sin.)

- P** When man fell into sin, judgment and death came to all.
C **Dust we are and to dust we shall return. (Genesis 3:19)**

(Ashes speak of frailty and our total dependence upon God.)

- P** We are but frail human beings who must rely upon You, dear Father. All living things "look to You and You give them their food at the proper time," but "when You hide Your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust." Psalm 104:27, 29
C **You richly and daily provide us with all that we need to support this body and life. You defend us against all danger and guard and protect us from all evil. All this You do out of Your fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us.**

(Ashes speak of humiliation and repentance.)

- P** As the people of faith humbled themselves in Your Holy Word and expressed their repentance and mourning in the signs of sackcloth and ashes, we also humble ourselves before You as we ask You to forgive our sins through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Almighty God, the prophet Jeremiah warned Your people against trusting in false gods of wood and stone. Likewise, we often trust in the works of our own hands. By our very nature we are sinful and this nature has given birth to sinful deeds: things we do and the things we leave undone. We are but dust and ash of the ground and we deserve nothing more than to return to the dust. Though we deserve Your stern judgment, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive and renew us. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*“For dust you are and to dust you will return.” (Genesis 3:19)
(Those desiring to receive the ashes will come forward during the singing of the following hymn)*

915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

ABSOLUTION

(Ashes speak of renewal and rebirth.)

P We learn more about ashes from nature.

C **Wildfires, destroy forests, creating ash. Destructive volcanoes erupt, spreading ash for miles.**

P Yet, beneath these ashes stirs the regeneration of life. The very ground, once destroyed, is nourished and fed, from which new life springs forth in exceeding abundance.

C **By the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus we have rebirth and renewal Through the Gospel, God the Holy Spirit brings forth the fruit of the Spirit in our lives with exceeding abundance.**

P Take heart. Do not be afraid. God in Christ Jesus has heard your cry for mercy and grants You His forgiveness. God desires all men, women, and children to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. It is God Himself who has given His Son Jesus Christ to die for you and for all people. And it is God Himself who raised Christ Jesus from the dead that you might have eternal life. Be confident in what He speaks to you today---"I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ,

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

First Reading

Jonah 1:1–3

¹Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,
²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their
evil has come up before me.” ³But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from
the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship
going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went on board, to go with
them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other
people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward
from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as
the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may
be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their
reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand
know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in
secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they
love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that
they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their
reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and
pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret
will reward you. . . .

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for
they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly,
I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast,
anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be
seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who
sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and
rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for
yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys
and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure
is, there your heart will be also.”

826 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

Sermon Text: Jonah 1:1-3

Sermon Title: God Is Calling

Gathering of Tithes & Offerings

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Stand

The Litany

- P** O Lord,
- C** have mercy.
- P** O Christ,
- C** have mercy.
- P** O Lord,
- C** have mercy.
- P** O Christ,
- C** hear us.

P God the Father in heaven,

C **have mercy.**

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P God the Holy Spirit,

C **have mercy.**

P Be gracious to us.

C **Spare us, good Lord.**

P Be gracious to us.

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P From all sin, from all error, from all evil;

From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;

From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;

From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

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:

C **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:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P We poor sinners implore You

C **to hear us, O Lord.**

P To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C **we implore You to hear us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ,

C **hear us.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy. Amen.**

P Dear Lord, Jonah tried to flee from your grace as he said later, "I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to

anger and abounding in love.” (Jonah 4:2) As we begin this Lenten season, we turn to your Son, Jesus and thank you for your grace for seeking us every time we run from your call on our lives. Together with John the Baptist, we say,

C **“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”! (John 1:29)**

P Father, we turn to your Son in repentance and sorrow for the countless times we have been deaf to your call. As we begin this Lenten season with ashes, renew us to focus on Jesus and remember his salvation, for by his holy cross he has redeemed the world. We remember his words, for they are our light. We remember his works, for they are our example. We remember his grace, for it is ours to receive. We remember his glory, for it is the brilliance of you, Father. We remember his pain, for it was not deserved. We remember his sorrow, for it was for our hardness of heart. We remember his life, for it was perfect before you, Father. We remember his death, for it was ours.

C **Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**

P Lord, Jesus, as we begin this Lenten season and follow Jonah to Nineveh and follow you to the cross, help us to devote ourselves to your call. In your name we pray.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

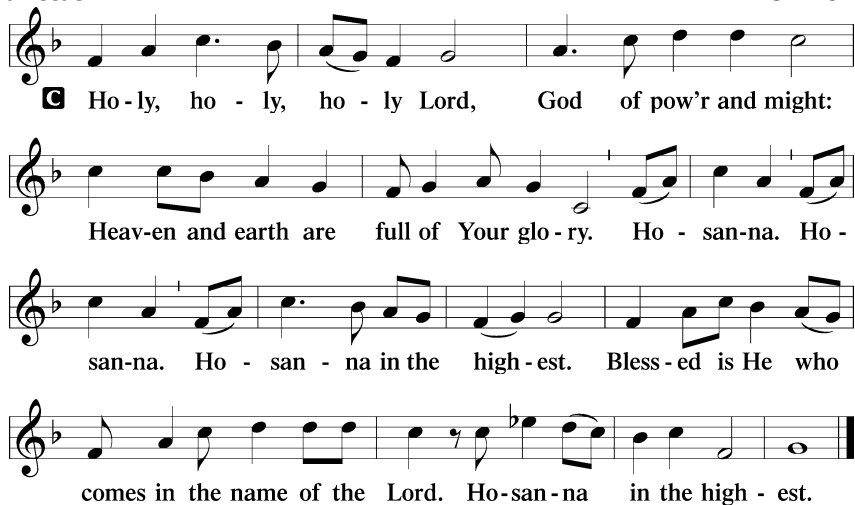
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate

the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Christ's Body and Blood

Members of other Christian denominations who are present may come forward to receive a blessing from the Pastor during the distribution. It is requested that you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire this blessing.

Silent Prayer Before Communing: Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation, I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer After Communing: Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament. I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace the forgiveness of sins unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

Stand

The Communion Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

C Amen.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165



C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
 veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and give you his peace. Your God is calling you to spread his word.

C Amen.