



**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 17, 2021, 12PM**

**Advent Lutheran Church**  
**3232 Washington Road**  
**Augusta, GA 30907**  
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**[www.adventaugusta.org](http://www.adventaugusta.org)**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

*On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”      Konig  
Arr. Ruth Garchow Machie**

**PSALM 51: 1-17** (*Spoken in unison*)

**C** <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses. <sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup>Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. <sup>5</sup>And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment. <sup>6</sup>Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother’s womb. <sup>7</sup>For

behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly. <sup>8</sup>Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. <sup>9</sup>Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice. <sup>10</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. <sup>11</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. <sup>12</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>13</sup>Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. <sup>14</sup>I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you. <sup>15</sup>Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation. <sup>16</sup>Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. <sup>17</sup>Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

## **GREETING**

**P** 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.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray,

**C** Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.

**Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Daniel 9:3-12**

L A reading from the book of Daniel.

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his

laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 103: 8-14** (*Read responsively*)

L <sup>8</sup>Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

**C <sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.**

L <sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

**C <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

L <sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

**C <sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.**

L <sup>14</sup>For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25**

**L** A reading from Romans.

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

**GOSPEL: John 3:14-18**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Redemptive Love**

**Pastors Peterson**

# HYMN

## Savior, When in Dust to You

1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;  
 2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,  
 3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,  
 4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,

when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;  
 by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,  
 by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-tur-ing scorn,  
 by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,

oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,  
 by the dread, mys-te-ri-ous hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,  
 by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,  
 oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,

bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
 turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
 lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
 bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

## INVITATION TO LENT

P Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. We invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

P As we begin this Lenten journey of love, and reflect on the redemptive love of our heavenly Father, we ponder our sinfulness and our need for His loving redemption.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most holy and merciful Father,

**C We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault, our own grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**C Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## **THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Instruction for the distribution of ashes for the home are given. When instructed, apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:*

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

*After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.*

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 Lord,  
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.**

## **PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **And also with you.**

*Share Christ's peace with one another.*

**OFFERING "Savior When in Dust to You" Joseph Parry**  
**Arr. Morgan Simmons**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Merciful God,  
C **you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us just  
as we are. Accompany us in this life, that we may pass  
over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

P Relying on the redemptive love of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

P Heavenly Father, out of love you sent your Son to redeem us and all creation. We thank you for your mercy and grace shown to us in this way. During these forty days of Lent, humble us and show us your power and glory, more and more, that we may witness your love to those around us. In your redemptive love,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord, you gave up your holy body and blood to buy us back from sin, death, the devil, and hell. Make us ever thankful that you paid the price we could not pay, so that our thankfulness and praise will resound to the ends of the earth. In your redemptive love,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Holy Spirit, as we begin this Lenten season, turn our hearts toward you and your mercy and grace. Humble us, by your mighty power, that we may cling to Jesus alone for life. In your redemptive love,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, you are the physician of body and soul. We humbly ask that you would heal those who are dealing with illness and injury according to your will. As they wait upon your healing, work through their struggle to reveal your mighty power and love in their lives. We especially pray for...and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. In your redemptive love,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

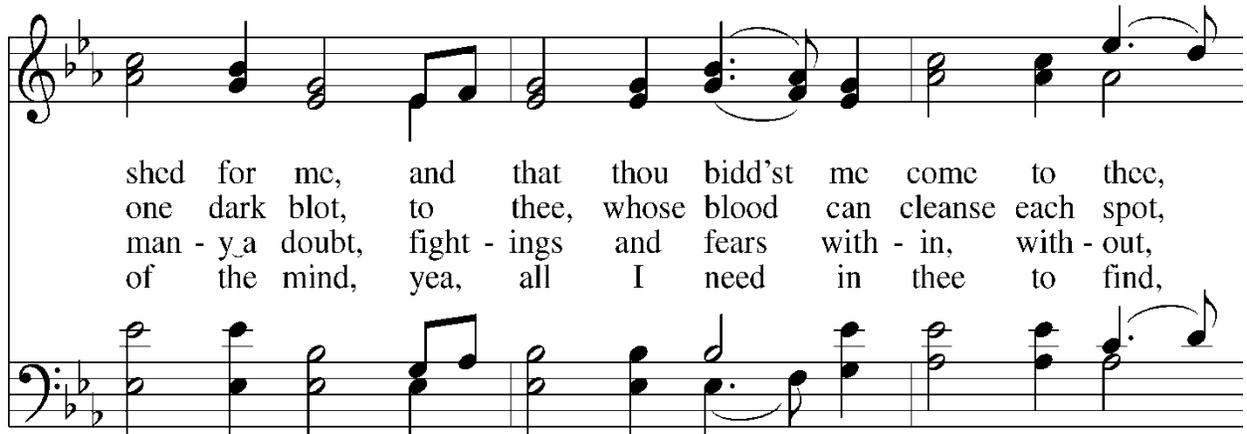
**C Amen.**

# HYMN

## Just As I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of  
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,  
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Andrea Windsor-Peterson

Pastor Jason Peterson

## **Organist**

Melinda East

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