

Our Worship This Evening  
February 17, 2021

**T H E P A R A B L E S  
O F L E N T**

R E C E I V E J U S T I F I C A T I O N

THE PARABLE *of the* PHARISEE  
*and the* TAX COLLECTOR

This Ash Wednesday service is based on the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. In this parable, the tax collector who repents goes home justified, while the proud Pharisee does not. The parable reminds us that we, too, who repent are justified through Christ.

**Opening Song:** LSB #423 Verses 1 and 2

**“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”**

Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner's' fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, see Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.

P In this holy season the Son of God humbles himself so that we receive mercy.

**C Humble me once again, O God, that my life would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

P In this holy season the Son of God prays for us so that we are made one with him and each other.

**C Help me to faithfully pray, O God, that my prayers would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

P In this holy season the Son of God lives a perfect life so that we receive his perfection.

**C Fill me with your Spirit, O God, that my life and actions would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

P In this holy season the Son of God enters into his Passion and death so that we are exalted.

**C Grant me your grace, O God, that my faith in Jesus would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

**We Sing:** LSB #423 Verse 3

**“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”**

Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning to behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior’s side,  
Graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.



## Why Ashes on Ash Wednesday?



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent.

While the imposition of ashes is not required, it serves as a powerful visual reminder of our repentance. Ashes may be obtained by burning the palm branches from the previous year's celebration of Palm Sunday, then mixing the ash with olive oil before applying. The words spoken prior to the distribution of the ashes recalls the sign of the ashes as a symbol both of our repentance and our mortality.

This accentuates our need for Jesus and for the forgiveness and life He freely provides. The use of ashes is a preparatory act for confession and absolution. Ashes may be applied in a cross shape to the forehead or the back of the hand, saying the words “**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return**” (Genesis 3:19). If you wish to refrain from receiving ashes, you may still come forward for a blessing. Although the Biblical use of ashes to signify repentance and/or grief predates even the earthly ministry of Christ, the use of Ashes for Ash Wednesday began as early as the 10<sup>th</sup> century. (Maschke, *Gathered Guests*)

### The Imposition of Ashes

#### Confession and Absolution

P Having been reminded that we are dust, and to dust we shall return, let us confess our sins:

C **Most merciful God, we confess that our very nature is sinful. The root of our sin is pride, and pride has made us love ourselves more than we love you or others have sinned against you by speaking selfish words, by thinking selfish thoughts and by taking selfish action. We have failed to love others more than ourselves and you above all else. Have mercy on us sinners.**

P Since we cannot justify ourselves, our God sent his one and only Son to live a perfect life and die the death we deserved. And so, in the stead and by the command of our Lord, I forgive your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

## **Scripture Readings**

Old Testament: Daniel 9:16-19 (Lg. print pg. 1393; Reg. print pg. 729)

Epistle: 1 Peter 5:6-11 (Large print pg. 1892; Regular print pg. 983)

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14 (Large print pg. 1630; Regular print pg. 851)

## **Sermon Hymn: Tune LSB #424**

We listen as the Word like scattered seed is sown,  
For as each parable is heard Christ's kingdom is made known.

The tax man prays alone, the Pharisee with pride.  
Which prayer is heard before the throne? Which man is justified?

In ev'ry time of need, before the judgment throne,  
Your work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, your merits, not my own.

## **Sermon**

## **Offering**

## **Special Music: "You Be Lifted High"**

Mark Haugen

## **Prayers**

P God of both justice and mercy, prevent us from thinking too highly of ourselves, and forgive us for the times that we do. O God who justifies through Christ,

C **be merciful to me, a sinner.**

P God of both justice and mercy, use the leaders of the nations of the world to bring peaceful justice to their citizens and mercifully grant the things that are needful to support both body and life. O God who justifies through Christ,

C **be merciful to me, a sinner.**

P God of both justice and mercy, shower your merciful care upon all those who need healing of body, soul, or spirit, so that the distractions of this life would not keep them from growing in faith toward you. O God who justifies through Christ,

C **be merciful to me, a sinner.**

P Amen.

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Benediction**

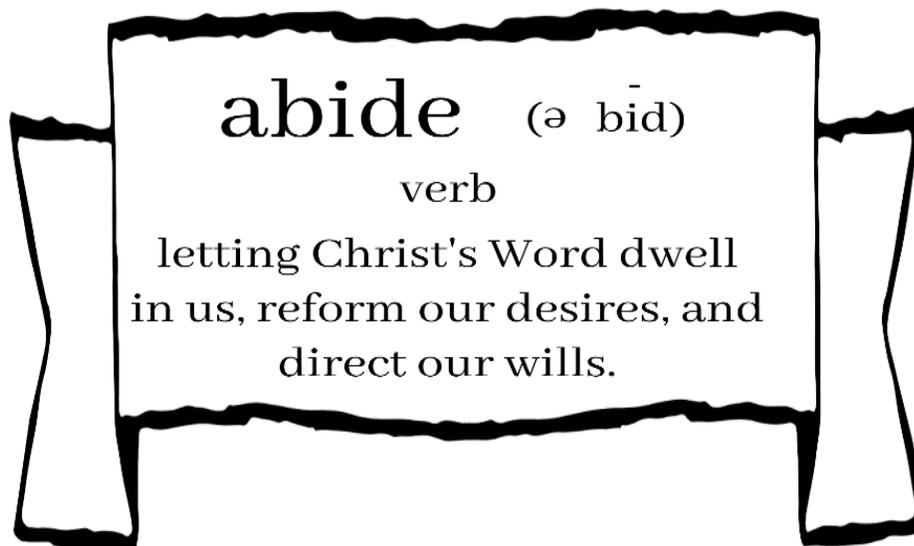
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **All: Amen**

**Closing Hymn: LSB #878 verses 1 and 6**

## “Abide With Me”

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord abide with me.





**Lenten services continue each Wednesday Feb 24-March 24 at 7:00 pm**

Note Schedule changes to Wednesday evening activities:

6:00 – 7:00 pm – OSKids

6:00-6:45 pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal

Confirmation Classes meets at 6:00 pm

Senior Youth meets at 7:00 pm