



A Symbol of Ash *Loss*

March 2, 2022

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

GATHERING HYMN *Jesus Loves Me*

*Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.*

Refrain

*Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. Refrain*

WELCOME

INVOCATION & CALL TO WORSHIP

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

*We come from many families to worship God as one family of
God.*

Remembering our covenant, we come in faithfulness.

We come to mark the beginning of the season of Lent.

We come to remember through ashes and prayer.

We come to break bread together.

We come to receive the cup in Christ's name.

Come then, let us renew ourselves as we worship together.

Let us worship God!

*Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. Refrain*

Refrain

*Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

SCRIPTURE

Joel 2:1-2, 12–17 (The Message)

Blow the ram's horn trumpet in Zion! Trumpet the alarm on my holy mountain! Shake the country up! GOD's Judgment's on its way—the Day's almost here!

A black day! A Doomsday! Clouds with no silver lining! Like dawn light moving over the mountains, a huge army is coming. There's never been anything like it and never will be again.

But there's also this, it's not too late—GOD's personal Message! — “Come back to me and really mean it! Come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins!”

Change your life, not just your clothes. Come back to GOD, your God.

And here's why: God is kind and merciful. He takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot, This most patient God, extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe.

Who knows? Maybe he'll do it now, maybe he'll turn around and show pity. Maybe, when all's said and done, there'll be blessings full and robust for your GOD!

Blow the ram's horn trumpet in Zion! Declare a day of repentance, a holy fast day. Call a public meeting. Get everyone there. Consecrate the congregation.

Make sure the elders come, but bring in the children, too, even the nursing babies, Even men and women on their honeymoon—interrupt them and get them there.

Between Sanctuary entrance and altar, let the priests, GOD's servants, weep tears of repentance. Let them intercede: "Have mercy, GOD, on your people! Don't abandon your heritage to contempt.

Don't let the pagans take over and rule them and sneer, 'And so where is this God of theirs?'"

CONFESSION

*Thank you, Lord, that you love us and hear us when we pray.
We are sorry for things we have done that have hurt you and others.*

We have not loved you or others as much as we could

Lord, we are sorry

We have not helped others as Jesus helped us

Lord, we are sorry

We have been impatient

Lord, we are sorry

We have been angry or mean

Lord, we are sorry

We have been jealous of others

Lord, we are sorry

We have told lies

Lord, we are sorry

We have forgotten to pray

Lord, we are sorry

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER

Holy God, you made us from dust. Let these crosses remind us of our sin as well as our baptism. Let these crosses remind us of Jesus and the forgiveness we receive. Let these ashes tell us again how loved we are, now and forever. Hear us and help us, Lord.

Work through us so that we can share your goodness and love in the world. Show us the joy and new life that Jesus brings.

Thank you, Lord, for loving us.

Help us to love one another. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 3:1-19

The serpent was clever, more clever than any wild animal GOD had made. He spoke to the Woman: “Do I understand that God told you not to eat from any tree in the garden?”

The Woman said to the serpent, “Not at all. We can eat from the trees in the garden. It’s only about the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘Don’t eat from it; don’t even touch it or you’ll die.’”

The serpent told the Woman, “You won’t die. God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you’ll see what’s really going on. You’ll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil.”

When the Woman saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it—she’d know everything!—she took and ate the fruit and then gave some to her husband, and he ate. Immediately the two of them did “see what’s really going on”—saw themselves naked! They sewed fig leaves together as makeshift clothes for themselves.

When they heard the sound of GOD strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, the Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the garden, hid from GOD.

GOD called to the Man: “Where are you?” He said, “I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid.”

GOD said, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you not to eat from?” The Man said, “The Woman you gave me as a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree, and, yes, I ate it.” GOD said to the Woman, “What is this that you’ve done?” “The serpent seduced me,” she said, “and I ate.”

GOD told the serpent: “Because you’ve done this, you’re cursed, cursed beyond all cattle and wild animals, cursed to slink on your belly and eat dirt all your life. I’m declaring war between you and the Woman, between your offspring and hers. He’ll wound your head, you’ll wound his heel.”

He told the Woman: “I’ll multiply your pains in childbirth; you’ll give birth to your babies in pain. You’ll want to please your husband, but he’ll lord it over you.”

He told the Man: “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from, ‘Don’t eat from this tree,’ the very ground is cursed because of you; getting food from

the ground will be as painful as having babies is for your wife; you'll be working in pain all your life long. The ground will sprout thorns and weeds, you'll get your food the hard way, planting and tilling and harvesting, sweating in the fields from dawn to dusk, until you return to that ground yourself, dead and buried; you started out as dirt, you'll end up dirt."

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 27:26-32

"Your sailors row mightily, taking you into the high seas. Then a storm out of the east shatters your ship in the ocean deep. Everything sinks—your rich goods and products, sailors and crew, ship's carpenters and soldiers, sink to the bottom of the sea. Total shipwreck.

The cries of your sailors reverberate on shore. Sailors everywhere abandon ship. Veteran seamen swim for dry land. They cry out in grief, a choir of bitter lament over you. They smear their faces with ashes, shave their heads, wear rough burlap, wildly keening their loss. They raise their funeral song: "Who on the high seas is like Tyre!"

SERMON

"Ash and Loss"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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 catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who are 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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours forever
and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
Okay, we will. Thanks be to God.