

# *Ash Wednesday*

*March 6, 2019*

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
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## **GATHERING**

### **PRELUDE**

### **GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**                      “Savior, When in Dust to You”                      #601

### **RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 51:1–18**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
    according to your steadfast love;  
**According to your lovingkindness;**  
    **in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**  
Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
    cleanse me from my sin.  
**For I know my transgressions,**  
    **and my sin is ever before me.**  
Against you only have I sinned  
    and done what is evil in your sight.  
**And so you are justified when you speak**  
    **and upright in your judgment.**  
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
    a sinner from my mother's womb.

**For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I will be clean indeed.

**Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Give me the joy of your saving help again,  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

I shall teach your ways to the wicked,  
and sinners shall return to you.

**Deliver me from death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.**

O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

**Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.**

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## **EXHORTATION**

Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare.

I invite you, therefore, to commit yourself to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

*(Silence and self-reflection)*

## **CONFESSION**

Most holy and merciful Father,

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

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

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ has served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness; our pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways; our exploitation of other people.

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, our dishonesty in daily life and work.

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend that faith that is in us.

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our wastefulness and pollution of your creation, and for our lack of concern for those who come after us.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

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. **Amen.**

*Those who desire ashes come forward, forming a single-file line behind the kneeler. When it is your turn, you may kneel if you are able. The Pastor imposes ashes in the shape of a cross upon the forehead and says, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Afterward, you may return to your seat by the outside aisle. After all those who desire ashes have received them, the Pastor will continue.*

**HYMN**

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

#592

## **PLEA FOR FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things which we do on this day may please him, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last, we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **A Reading from Joel:**

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near— <sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. <sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” (Joel 2:1–2, 12–17)

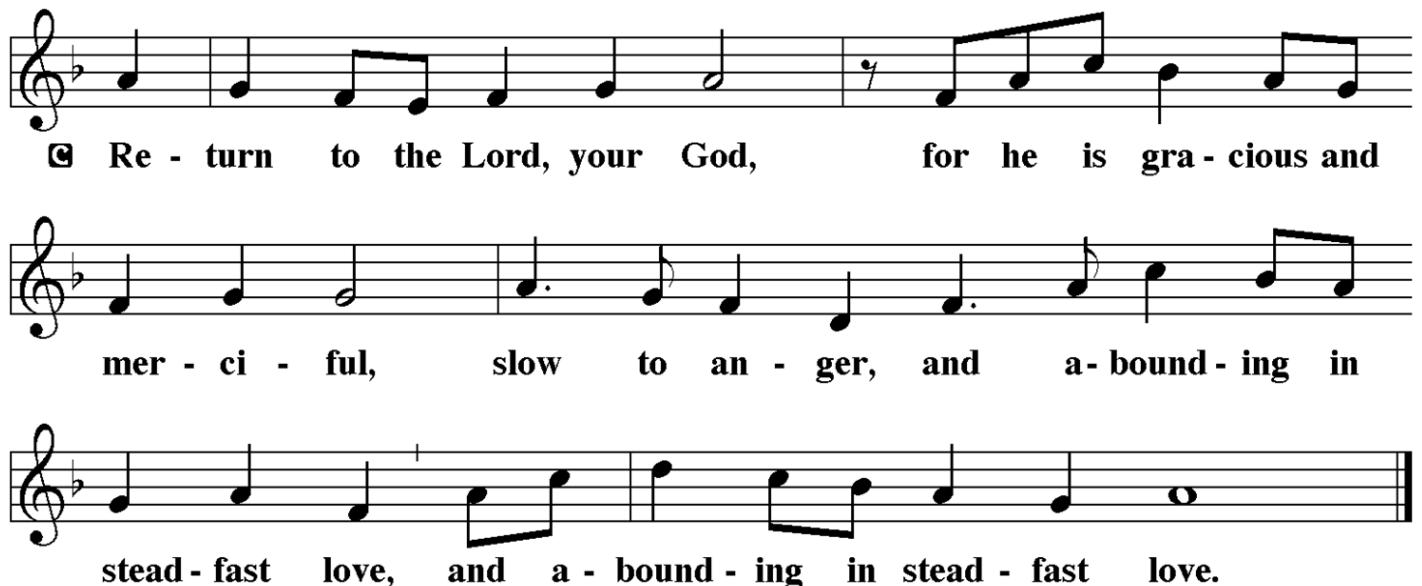
The Word of the Lord.     **Thanks be to God.**

## A Reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians

<sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.<sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.  
<sup>1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,<sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. (2 Corinthians 5:20–6:10)

The Word of the Lord.   **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and**  
**mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in**  
**stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.**

## **Gospel**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said,] “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever 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.

<sup>7</sup>“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

#789

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *(A brief silence)*

Holy God, you gather your people in solemn assembly. Grant us grace to observe a holy Lent through fasting, prayer, and works of love. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You give generously to all your creatures. Provide for all animals whose winter rations are dwindling, and prepare the earth for the renewal in the coming weeks. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You move your people to cry out for justice. Reveal all the ways in which we oppress others. Turn us from our complacency, and move us to work in their behalf. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You lift up the poor and grant abundant life to those who suffer. Care for all who know poverty of any kind. Send your healing touch to all those who are sick or injured *(especially...)*. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You turn people from their sin to live for you alone. Renew us in the covenant of baptism so that we may live in hope of a creation reconciled and restored. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As we remember the saints who have gone before us, guide us in our journey, and open our lives to the cleansing and renewing power of your abundant forgiveness. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*Ushers: Come immediately to the front and wait for the Communion Assistant. Receive the collection along the center aisle, from front to back, then walk behind the last pews and up the side aisles to receive the collection on the outside aisles, again from front to back. Return to the back and wait for the Communion Assistant to come forward with the alms basin.*

## ANTHEM

\*“A Clean Heart”

B. Harlan

## OFFERTORY HYMN



☒ What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me? I will



of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will take the cup of sal - va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all his peo-ple,



in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them, we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## MEAL


### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.



☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.



☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☑ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should in all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



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.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **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.

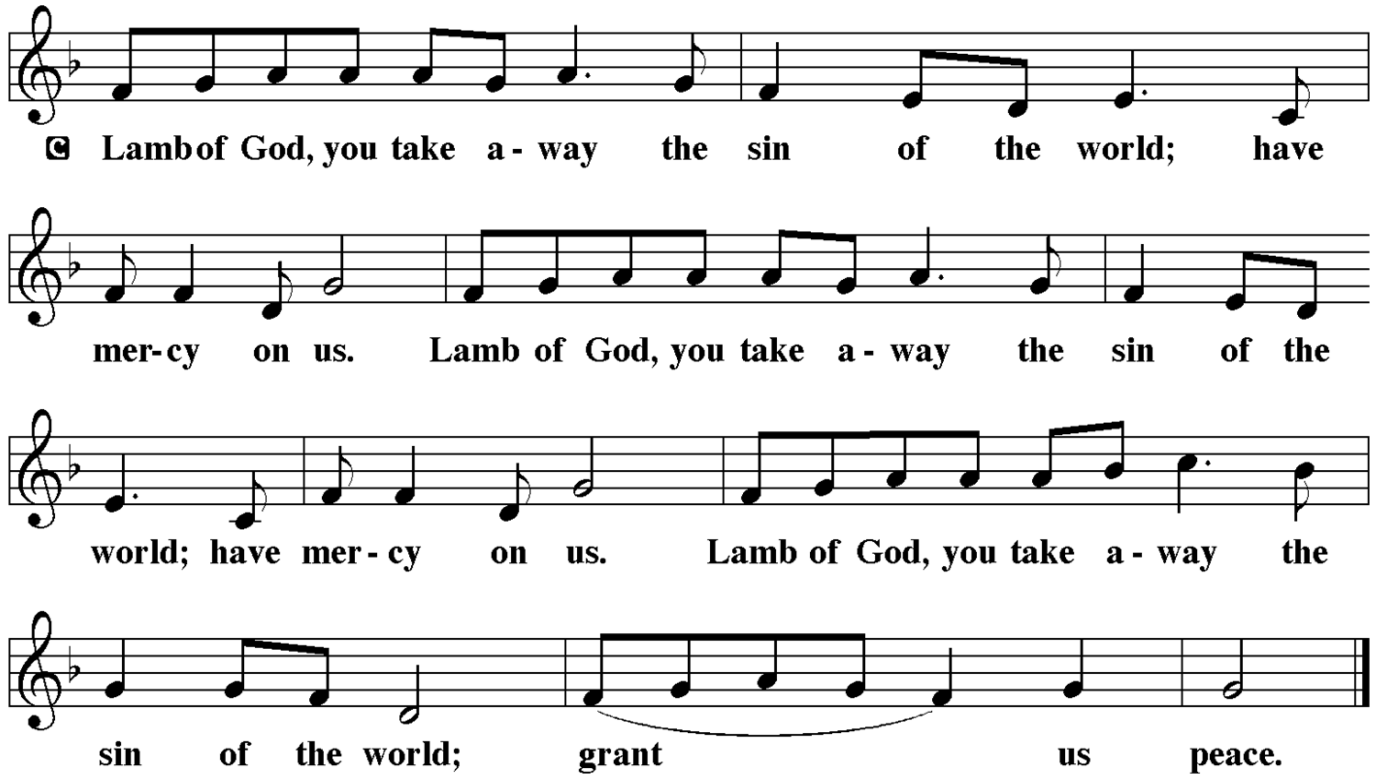
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
    and the glory, forever and forever. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those  
who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and my soul shall  
be healed.**

## AGNUS DEI



**☞** 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.

**COMMUNION HYMNS** “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” #608  
“Our Father, We Have Wandered” #606

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may give to those who are poor, pray for those in need, abstain from self-indulgence, live humble and gracious lives 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.**

# SENDING

## **BLESSING**

May Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

#759

## **THE DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; and love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

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\*A *Clean Heart* was presented in loving memory of Franklin Kamp by Tina Butler, and Victoria and Alexandria Spitler. (2007)

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## MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES



**WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 PM**

Pastor Mike will preach on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm during a series of six midweek Lenten services that will begin at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 13.

Learn more about “the Good Shepherd” psalm, and consider how daily trusting in a Loving God can radically change your life!

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**Introduction to the Day:** Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today’s readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent, the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning in which we are washed in God’s mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

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