



Blessing the Dust by Jan Richardson

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

Advent Lutheran Church
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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

“Blessing the Dust” for Ash Wednesday⁺

Gathering Song

ELW #773 *“Precious Lord”*

Choir & Congregation

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

The Greeting

- L: 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.**

⁺ Written by Jan Richardson.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Holy God, who makes all things new,
new stars, new dust, new life; take our hearts,
every hardened edge and measured beat,
and create something new in us.

We need your newness: the rough parts of ourselves to be made smooth; the
stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven.

We are here.

We are still.

We are quiet.

And we are open to your presence.

As we hear the Scriptures read aloud, let your love awaken us and draw us once
again into your presence; in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Gospel Acclamation

“Let Your Steadfast Love”



En tu in - a - go - ta - ble a - mor, oh Dios,
Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



en tu in - a - go - ta - ble a - mor, oh Dios,
Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



cum - ple la pro - me - sa de tu sal - va - ción;
Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word,



tu pa - la - bra con - fia - ré.
we will trust your word.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Sermon

Song of the Day

ELW #666 "What Wondrous Love" Choir & Congregation



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Invitation to Lent

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. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent —self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—as we are 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.

Lenten Confession

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

L: Holy God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

L: 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.

L: 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.

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

C: Have mercy on us.

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

C: Have mercy on us.

A: 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.

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

C: Have mercy on us.

A: 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.

L: 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.

A: Restore us and renew our spirits.

C: Holy God, hear us, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

L: Holy God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Let these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence and remind us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life. Amen.

Friends in Christ, I invite you to receive these ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

You are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

When the sign of the Cross is marked on your forehead, you will hear these words:

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

Anthem

“Life and the Word”

Sanctuary Singers

L: Holy God, accompany us through these 40 days of Lent. By your Holy Spirit renew us in the gift of baptism that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Affirmation of Faith

L: Let us affirm our faith.

**C: We believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of the One God,
Maker and sustainer of earth, sea, and sky.
Born of Mary’s womb,
Faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah,
Jesus healed the sick,
Served the poor,
And proclaimed the reign of God in the world.
Condemned by the religious
And crucified by the state,
He died,**

**But transformed even death
And rose to life everlasting.
He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit
And sent them forth,
East and west, north and south.
We commit ourselves to Jesus,
To one another and to his mission in the world
In the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.⁺**

Prayers of the People of God

L: Returning to the Lord with all our heart, let us pray for the whole people of God, the earth, and all who cry out for healing.

A brief silence.

L: For Christians around the world assembled at the beginning of the Lenten fast; for greater understanding among the religions of the world; and for faith to recognize Christ as life's true treasure. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For faithful leaders who call us to compassion for the poor; and for all facing affliction, imprisonment, unemployment, hunger, and sleepless nights. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: For the health of our communities; for an end to injustice, oppression, poverty, and homelessness. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Reconcile us to one another and to you, gracious God, until we join all your holy ones in life everlasting. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Hear us according to your steadfast love, O God, and in your great compassion bring us to resurrection and rebirth in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Holy Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

⁺ The Iona Abbey Worship Book.

- P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to God.
C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer (*spoken*)

- 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 Post-Communion Blessing

- L: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

Benediction

- L: May the peace of Christ go with you wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm, and may he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.
C: **Amen.**



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Refrain
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



To stanzas 3 and 4
 love you and you are mine."
 4 "I

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God