



## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

### **THE STORY OF MOSES AND THE EXODUS**

**WEEK 1: “A New King Arose in Egypt... Who Did Not Know Joseph”**

**Call to Worship: “Rock of Ages” set by Carter**

#### **CONFESSIONAL**

**P:** In the name of the Triune God, God,

**C:** our Creator

**P:** Jesus,

**C:** our Redeemer,

**P:** and the Holy Spirit,

**C:** the one who makes us holy. Amen.

**Hymn Verse: “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” #337 ELW**

**Vs. 1: Alas! And did my Savior bleed.**

**And did my sov’ reign die?**

**Would he devote that sacred head**

**For sinners such as I?**

#### **Imposition of Ashes**

**P:** Today is Ash Wednesday. It is the day in which the faithful have their foreheads marked with ashes in the shape of the cross. It marks the beginning of Lent, the forty days of fasting and abstinence, the traditional preparation for the annual celebration of Easter. In the Old Testament we hear of people who repent of their sins putting on sackcloth and sprinkling their heads with ashes.

As we mark ourselves with the ashes on our foreheads, it not only marks our repentance and contrition, but also reminds us that “from dust we come and to dust we shall return.”

*At this time people are invited to come forward and have the sign of the cross marked on their foreheads with ashes*

**Hymn Verse: “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” #337 ELW**

**Vs. 2: Was it for sins that I had done**

**He groaned upon the tree?**

**Amazing pity, grace unknown,**

**And love beyond degree!**

**Psalm 51**

**P:** Scripture tells us that the time when Nathan the prophet confronted David over his sinfulness. David *“fasted, wouldn’t go out, and slept on the floor.”* His words of sorrow are our words of sorrow as we reflect on our own sinfulness.

**Psalm 51**

*The psalm is spoken responsively.*

**P:** Generous in love—God, give grace!

**C: Huge in mercy—wipe out my bad record.**

**P:** Scrub away my guilt,

**C: soak out my sins in your laundry.**

**P:** I know how bad I’ve been;

**C: my sins are staring me down.**

**P:** You’re the One I’ve violated, and you’ve seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil.

**C: You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair.**

**P:** I’ve been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born.

**C: What you’re after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life.**

**P:** Soak me in your laundry and I’ll come out clean,

**C: scrub me and I’ll have a snow-white life.**

**P:** Tune me in to foot-tapping songs,

**C: set these once-broken bones to dancing.**

**P:** Don’t look too close for blemishes,

**C: give me a clean bill of health.**

**P:** God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.

**C: Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe holiness in me.**

**P:** Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my sails!

**C: Give me a job teaching rebels your ways, so the lost can find their way home.**

**P:** Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God, and I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways.

**C: Unbutton my lips, dear God; I'll let loose with your praise.**

**P:** Going through the motions doesn't please you, a flawless performance is nothing to you.

**All: I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice.**

**Hymn Verse: "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" #337 ELW**

**Vs. 5: But tears of grief cannot repay**

**The debt of love I owe;**

**Here, Lord, I give myself away;**

**It's all that I can do.**

**P:** God, whose love for us is steadfast and mercy endless has reconciled the world to God's self through the life, death and resurrection of God's Son, Jesus Christ. God does not count our sins against us. I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, assure you that all your sins are forgiven, in the name of God our Creator, + Jesus our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit who makes us holy.

**Anthem: "Merciful God" Getty & Townend/Courtney Chancel Choir**

### **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Exodus 1:8-14**

**Lector:**<sup>8-10</sup> A new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. He spoke to his people with alarm,

**King (Congregation):** **There are way too many of these Israelites for us to handle. We've got to do something: Let's devise a plan to contain them, lest if there's a war they should join our enemies, or just walk off and leave us.**

**Lector:**<sup>11-14</sup> So they organized them into work-gangs and put them to hard labor under gang-foremen. They built the storage cities Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. But the harder the Egyptians worked them the more children the

Israelites had children everywhere! The Egyptians got so they couldn't stand the Israelites and treated them worse than ever, crushing them with slave labor. They made them miserable with hard labor—making bricks and mortar and back-breaking work in the fields. They piled on the work, crushing them under the cruel workload.

**Hymn: "Guide My Feet"**

**Vs. 1: Guide my feet while I run this race. (3 times)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Vs. 2: Hold my hand, while I run this race. (3 times)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Exodus 1:15-22**

**Lector:**<sup>15-16</sup> The king of Egypt had a talk with the two Hebrew midwives; one was named Shiphrah and the other Puah. He said,

**King (Congregation): When you deliver the Hebrew women, look at the sex of the baby. If it's a boy, kill him; if it's a girl, let her live.**

**Lector:**<sup>17-18</sup> But the midwives had far too much respect for God and didn't do what the king of Egypt ordered; they let the boy babies live. The king of Egypt called in the midwives.

**King (Congregation): Why didn't you obey my orders? You've let those babies live!**

**Lector:**<sup>19</sup> The midwives answered Pharaoh,

**Midwives (Women and Girls): The Hebrew women aren't like the Egyptian women; they're vigorous. Before the midwife can get there, they've already had the baby.**

**Lector:**<sup>20-21</sup> God was pleased with the midwives. The people continued to increase in number—a very strong people. And because the midwives honored God, God gave them families of their own. <sup>22</sup> So Pharaoh issued a general order to all his people:

**Pharaoh (Congregation): Every boy that is born, drown him in the Nile. But let the girls live.**

**Hymn: "Guide My Feet"**

**Vs. 3: Stand by me, while I run this race. (3 times)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Vs. 4: I'm your child, while I run this race. (3 times)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Exodus 2: 1-10**

**Lector:**<sup>1-3</sup> A man from the family of Levi married a Levite woman. The woman became pregnant and had a son. She saw there was something special about him and hid him. She hid him for three months. When she couldn't hide him any longer she got a little basket-boat made of papyrus, waterproofed it with tar and pitch, and placed the child in it. Then she set it afloat in the reeds at the edge of the Nile.<sup>4-6</sup> The baby's older sister found herself a vantage point a little way off and watched to see what would happen to him. Pharaoh's daughter came down to the Nile to bathe; her maidens strolled on the bank. She saw the basket-boat floating in the reeds and sent her maid to get it. She opened it and saw the child—a baby crying! Her heart went out to him. She said,

**Pharaoh's Daughter (Adults): This must be one of the Hebrew babies.**

**Lector:** <sup>7</sup> Then his sister was before her:

**Moses' Sister (Youth): Do you want me to go and get a nursing mother from the Hebrews so she can nurse the baby for you?**

**Pharaoh's Daughter (Adults): Yes. Go.**

**Lector:** The girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's daughter told her,

**Pharaoh's Daughter (Adults):** Take this baby and nurse him for me. I'll pay you.

**Lector:** The woman took the child and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> After the child was weaned, she presented him to Pharaoh's daughter who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses (Pulled-Out), saying, "I pulled him out of the water."

**Homily: "A New King Arose In Egypt -- Who Did Not Know Joseph"**

*Stand*

**Offering and Hymn: "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"**

**Vs. 1: We are climbing Jacob's ladder. (3 times)  
Soldiers of the cross.**

**Vs. 2: Ev'ry round goes higher, higher. (3 times)  
Soldiers of the cross.**

**Vs. 3: Sinner, do you love my Jesus? (3 times)**

**Soldiers of the cross.**

**Vs. 4: If you love him, why not serve him? (3 times)**

**Soldiers of the cross.**

**Vs. 5: We are climbing high, higher. (3 times)**

**Soldiers of the cross.**

*Sit*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Words of Institution**

### **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 ever. Amen.**

### **Communion Distribution**

**P:** The wine and bread of Holy Communion strengthens us to live as Christ would have us live. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

*Meditative music is played as people either eat the bread and drink the wine of Holy Communion in their pews or come forward and kneel at the rail.*

### **Blessing**

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

**C: Amen.**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C: We thank you O Lord, for this bread and wine, your body and blood. We thank you for once again assuring us that our sins are forgiven. Freed from the burden of our guilt, empower us with our Holy Spirit to go out into this world and forgive others as we have been forgiven. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.**

### **Benediction**

**P:** And now go in peace... go strengthened...go with the One who is able to do more within you than you can ask or imagine. Go to serve and honor Jesus with your words and actions. Go and honor and respect those around you, in the name of God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit who makes us holy.

**C: Amen!**

*Stand*

**Closing Hymn: "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" #623 ELW**

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;  
Let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone; thou must save and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**Postlude: "Wondrous Love" Walker/Oines**