



ASH WEDNESDAY

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

**WEEK 1: Commandments 9 & 10 “No coveting after your neighbor’s house – or wife or servant or maid or ox or donkey.
Don’t set your heart on anything that is your neighbor’s.**

If you brought an offering with you this evening, please place it in the offering plates in the narthex before or after worship. During Lent we focus on the price Jesus paid for our sins. As Luther writes in his explanation of the Second Article (*I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord*) “Jesus has redeemed me a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all my sins, from death, and the power of the devil, not with gold and silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.”

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Beautiful Savior” Bells: Linda Kunz & Melissa Peterson

CONFESSIOAL

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 Vss. 1 & 2

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?

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

He groaned upon the tree?

Amazing pity, grace unknown,

And love beyond degree!

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 Vss. 3 & 4

Vs. 3: Well might the sun in darkness hide

And shut its glories in

When God, the mighty make, died

For his own creatures' sin.

Vs. 4: Thus might I hide my blushing face

while his dear cross appears,

dissolve my heart in thankfulness,

and melt my eyes to tears.

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

**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 20: 1 - 7

GOD spoke all these words: I am GOD, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of a life of slavery. No other gods, only me. No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because I am GOD, your God, and I'm a most jealous God, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me. But I'm unswervingly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments. No using the name of GOD, your God, in curses or silly banter; GOD won't put up with the irreverent use of his name.

Hymn: "Trust and Obey" Vs. 1

**Vs. 1: When we walk with the Lord
in the Light of his Word
what a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His goodwill,
He abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.**

**Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

Exodus 20: 8-11

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to GOD, your God. Don't do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days GOD made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them; he rested on the seventh day. Therefore GOD blessed the Sabbath day; he set it apart as a holy day.

Hymn: "Trust and Obey" Vs. 2

**Vs. 2: Not a shadow can rise,
Not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away!
While a doubt or a fear,
Not a sigh nor a tear,
can abide while we trust and obey.**

**Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

Exodus 20: 12-17

Honor your father and mother so that you'll live a long time in the land that GOD, your God, is giving you. No murder. No adultery. No stealing. No lies about your neighbor. No lusting after your neighbor's house—or wife or servant or maid or ox or donkey. Don't set your heart on anything that is your neighbor's.

Hymn: "Trust and Obey" Vs. 3

**Vs. 3: Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil He doth richly repay;
not a grief nor a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey.**

Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way

to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2 Samuel 11: 1-5

11 ¹ When that time of year came around again, the anniversary of the Ammonite aggression, David dispatched Joab and his fighting men of Israel in full force to destroy the Ammonites for good. They laid siege to Rabbah, but David stayed in Jerusalem. ²⁻⁵ One late afternoon, David got up from taking his nap and was strolling on the roof of the palace. From his vantage point on the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was stunningly beautiful. David sent to ask about her, and was told, “Isn’t this Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite?” David sent his agents to get her. After she arrived, he went to bed with her. (This occurred during the time of “purification” following her period.) Then she returned home. Before long she realized she was pregnant. Later she sent word to David: “I’m pregnant.”

Hymn: “Trust and Obey” Vs. 4

**Vs. 4: But we never can prove
the delight of His love,
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor He shows,
and the joy He bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey**

**Refrain: Trust and obey, for there’s no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

Homily: “Don’t Covet”

Stand

Hymn: “Trust and Obey” Vs. 5

**Vs. 5: Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at His feet,
or we’ll walk by His side in the way;
what He says we will do,
where He sends we will go-,
never fear, only trust and obey.**

Refrain: Trust and obey, for there’s no other way

to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

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 Vss. 1-3

**Vs. 1: 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.**

**Vs. 2: 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.**

**Vs. 3: 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