

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday – February 26th, 2020

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Sermon Hymn: 396 In Adam We Have All Been One

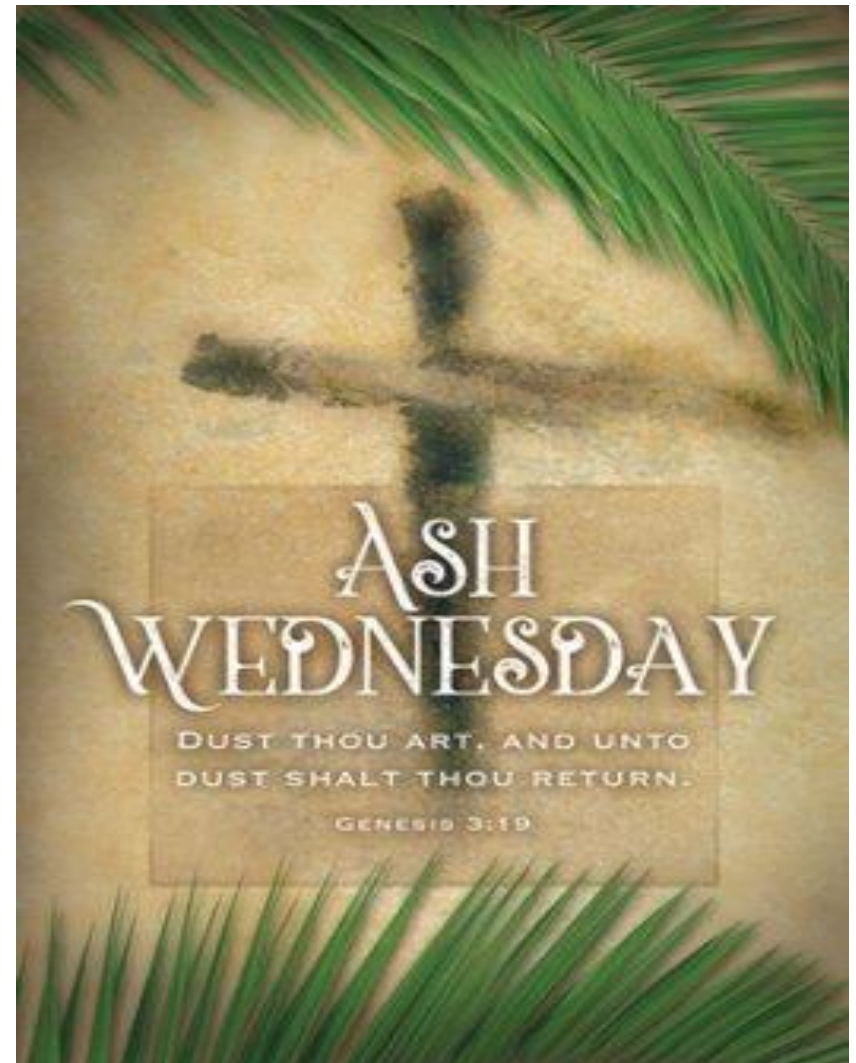
Sermon: The Promised Warrior

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

Distribution Hymn: 377 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Benediction

Closing Hymn: 125 v. 4 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

Pastor: Mark Swanson Church Tel: 920-674-3307

Principal: Craig Winkler School Tel: 262-582-3010

Organist: Judy Acker / Wendy Winkler

We Welcome You!

Order of Worship: Pg. 52

Opening Hymn: 125 v. 1 - 3 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Prayer of the Day:

M: Gracious Father, keep your family, the Church, always faithful to you, that we may lean on the hope of your promises and be strong in the power of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson - Isaiah 59:12-20

This is the passage that Jesus references in the Gospel. However, some of the Pharisees had changed its interpretation by adding “but hate your enemy” to the phrase “love your neighbor.” While that makes sense to our flesh, it is completely out of character with God. The standard for our life is the holiness of God, not our feelings or wants. God’s holy standard is clear: love for our neighbor must be equal to the love we have for our very self. Make no room in your hearts for vengeance or grudges, but live with the holiness of God as your standard and your example. Live also with the last sentence as your comfort and motivation: I am the LORD, the God of the covenant, the God of free and faithful love for you.

¹² For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: ¹³ rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, fomenting oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. ¹⁴ So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. ¹⁵ Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. ¹⁸ According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his

enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due. ¹⁹ From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along. ²⁰ “The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the LORD.

Junior Choir – Come Unto Me

Second Lesson - 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

This is the sixth in a seven-week series of readings from 1 Corinthians. Paul could have borne a grudge against Apollos or Peter because of the divisions present in the church of Corinth. Instead, he models Christian love for our neighbor and Christian unity with his words and actions. Paul lives and speaks and loves like Christ, seeking only to serve. The world would call it foolishness, but God calls such selfless love the wisdom of God.

We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. ² For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

Verse of the Day: *Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13 cf. RSV)*

Gospel - Luke 18:9-14

Our flesh finds Jesus’ commands revolting. The human animal snarls when attacked and bites back when bitten. Jesus, however, tells us not to resist evil, to turn the other cheek, to love our enemies. Who would live like this? Only the Son of our heavenly Father. God demonstrated his love for us in this: when we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus himself prayed for his enemies who crucified him. He most certainly was his Father’s Son. Now God calls us, his sons, to live like Jesus and love people as perfectly as the Father does. As God makes the sun rise on the evil and the good, so he commands us to shine the light of our love on everyone around us.