



February 26, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
229 11th Ave W.
Grinnell, IA 50112

Creation and Re-Creation: Christ's Holy Week Work as Witness to Days of Creation

Sermon Series for the Season of Lent

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koepp

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. These words, taken from the Rite of the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, recall for us the curse of the Fall into sin in *Genesis 3*. God's perfect creation was cursed, as the pinnacle of creation, the one's created and placed into a position of stewardship failed into their duty. Rather than being like children and trusting in their Father to care, nurture, and sustain them, even through simple means, such as one, clear Word of command and promise, they sought to be like God. As the parents, so are the children. From the fall, all mankind is cursed with returning to dust. In those words of cursing, hope was given; a promise from God was made. From the dust, a Savior would be born to restore mankind. From the cross, that very promised Man cries it to be completed, and the payment for sin finished. Three days later, that same man would rise. Dust returning to dust and then waking from the dust to life eternal. God took on flesh, became one of the dust, to restore man to its rightful place and bestows upon you, through faith in His simple words of command and promise, heirs of the Kingdom of God. This Lent, we are going to look at Christ's work of Creation and Re-Creation, specifically as He bears witness to the days of Creation through His work during Holy Week. We will note parallels of *Genesis 1-2*, with Jesus life from Palm Sunday through Easter. We also have the added joy of welcoming four of our fellow Circuit Pastor's to proclaim to us God's clear words of command and promise, His Law and Gospel. This Lent is marked as even more special, as we will on March 25 celebrate the Annunciation of Our Lord. Nine months before Christmas, it is the day we recall the announcement to Mary of her pregnancy, and the incarnation of our Lord—Jesus in the flesh! It is a day of all days, as we mark God-in-the-flesh for the first time, His first step in redeeming man from his fallen state. Please plan to join us as we walk from Ash Wednesday (February 26) to the Resurrection of Our Lord (April 12) hearing *Creation & Re-Creation: Christ's Holy Week Work as Witness to Days of Creation*.

ASH WEDNESDAY DIVINE SERVICE

Due to the solemn nature of the Service of Ash Wednesday, the congregation and Pastor enter in silence. It is also customary to spend time in reflection on 51.

+ The Imposition of Ashes +
Ashes will be offered at the font, as one enters the sanctuary. Those who wish to receive ashes may receive them on the forehead or on the hand with these words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Please stand and face the baptismal font.

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Silence for reflection.

Litany for Ash Wednesday

P O Lord,
C have mercy.
P O Christ,
C have mercy.
P O Lord,
C have mercy.
P O Christ,
C hear us.
P God the Father in heaven,
C have mercy.
P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C have mercy.

P God the Holy Spirit,

C have mercy.

P Be gracious to us.

C Spare us, good Lord.

P Be gracious to us.

C Help us, good Lord.

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C Help us, good Lord.

P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C Help us, good Lord.

P We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

P To prosper the teaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayer; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy. Amen.**

Concluding Collect

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Processional Hymn ~ *'In the Midst of Earthly Life'*
(hymn printed on handout)

TLH 590

Salutation (spoken)

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:1–21

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The LORD God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
 cursed are you above all livestock
 and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel.”

To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
 in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
 and he shall rule over you.”

And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
 and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
 ‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
 in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your face
 you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
 for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return.”

The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Ps. 57:1a, 3a

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge.

**He will send from heaven and save me;
he will put to shame him who tramples on me.**

Epistle Reading

2 Peter 1:2–11

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, if able.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when 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.

[Jesus said:] “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Hymn ~ *‘From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee’* LSB 607

Sermon “The Dust and Ashes of Fallen Creation” *Genesis 3:17-19*

Please stand, if able.

Offertory LSB 192

Please be seated.

Offering

Please stand, if able.

Prayer of the Church

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Preface LSB 194

Proper Preface (Full)

Sanctus LSB 195

Lord’s Prayer LSB 196

The Words of Our Lord LSB 197

Pax Domini LSB 197

Agnus Dei LSB 198

Please be seated.

Distribution Hymns

‘Savior, When in Dust to Thee’ LSB 419

‘Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing’ LSB 421

Please stand, if able.

<u>Nunc Dimittis</u>	LSB 199
<u>Thanksgiving</u>	LSB 200
<u>Post-Communion Collect</u>	
<u>Salutation</u>	LSB 201
<u>Benedicamus</u>	LSB 202
<u>Benediction</u>	LSB 202
<u>Hymn</u> ~ <i>‘God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven’</i>	LSB 877

Acknowledgments

Ash Wednesday from Lutheran Service Book

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**Thanks to all
who contributed
to tonight's Potluck.**

Mid-Week Evening Prayer Services

Wednesday, March 4

Wednesday, March 11

Wednesday, March 18

Wednesday, April 1

Meal will be served at 5:15pm followed by the service at 6:30pm

The Annunciation of Our Lord Evening Prayer Service

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30pm

Palm Sunday/Confirmation

April 5

Holy Week Prayer Services

Monday, April 6 at noon

Tuesday, April 7 at noon

Wednesday, April 8 at noon

Holy Thursday

April 9 at 6:30pm

Good Friday

April 10 at 6:30pm

Holy Saturday Prayer Service

April 11 at noon

Easter Vigil Service

April 11 at 6:30pm

Easter Sunrise Service

April 12 at 6:30am

Ressurrection of Our Lord

April 12 at 9:00am