

## GOD'S ETERNAL PROMISE

“When humans sinned, they lost the glory of God and handed over their God-given authority to the devil (an entity whom Paul calls “the god of this world” in 2 Corinthians 4).”<sup>(1)</sup> Immediately, God made a promise to Satan and to man as recorded in the following verses from Genesis -

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,..

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel” Genesis 3:14, 15

Then there came a time when God’s people needed to be freed from physical bondage and their prayers and cries were heard. Once again unfathomable love is shown by God as he brings his people out of Egypt. Not only are they removed from physical slavery but they are given directions on how to live with the receiving of the Ten Commandments. The very first Commandment states:

2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

3 You shall have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:2-3

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### Why Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.

First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap.

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!



### ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6th

Joel 2:12-19

Psalm 51:1-19

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### Worship Texts for March

Date		1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
Mar. 3	Transfiguration	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Psalm 99	Hebrews 3:1-6	Luke 9:28-36
Mar. 10	First Sunday in Lent	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-13	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
Mar. 17	Second Sunday in Lent	Jeremiah 26:8-15	Psalm 4	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
Mar. 24	Third Sunday in Lent	Ezekiel 33:7-20	Psalm 85	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
Mar. 31	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 12:1-6	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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“I am the Lord your God”, what an assurance of being personally loved by the great “I AM”. But then look at the next verse - *have no other gods before me!* As humans we know we are selfish and the root of selfishness is “I” which translates to worshipping ourselves rather than God. We are not truthful if we say “God is first and I am in second place”. We do have an unsurpassed example of a man who had no other “gods” – Jesus. “Remarkably, even Jesus Christ could not live the Christian life by His own power and initiative.” (1)

Every year we “walk” with him in the scriptures as he meets challenges that would have caused us to hide from sight, not so with Jesus! He remained faithful to his Father’s will no matter the consequences because he knew God’s great love for him and for his children.

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10*

Our celebration at Easter happens because God’s promise of a Savior has been completed and eternal life has been made possible.

*24 Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24*

***O God, our Redeemer and Creator, help us to determine the “gods” in our lives, to rid ourselves of these “gods”, and to submit our will to your will. Amen.***

(1) “INSURGENCE - Reclaiming the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM” by Frank Viola, published by Baker Books



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**March 3rd &  
April 7th**  
Potluck at 5:00pm  
Communion Service  
at 6:00pm

- Word of Life Core Values**
- ***Jesus is Lord.***
  - ***Jesus is our guide.***
  - ***Forgiveness of sin leads to healing.***
  - ***Prayer changes things.***
  - ***Faith is God's gracious gift that saves.***

Maundy Thursday: *Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 116:12-19; Hebrews 10:15-25; Luke 22:7-20*  
Good Friday: *Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 4:14-16 & 5:7-9; John 18:1 - 19:42*

<b>Worship Texts for April</b>					
<b>Date</b>		<b>1st Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>2nd Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Apr. 7	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	Luke 20:9-20
Apr. 14	Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday)	Deut. 32:36-39	Psalm 118:19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:1 - 23:56
Apr. 21	Resurrection of our Lord	Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalm 16	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Luke 24:1-12
Apr. 28	Second Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:12-20(21-32)	Psalm 148	Revelation 1:4-18	John 20:19-31