

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 – CW 125 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 1:17-19**

**Sermon Theme: I See... A Cross**

**Offering**

*STAND*

**Prayers**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Prayer for Peace**

**M:** Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**Blessing**

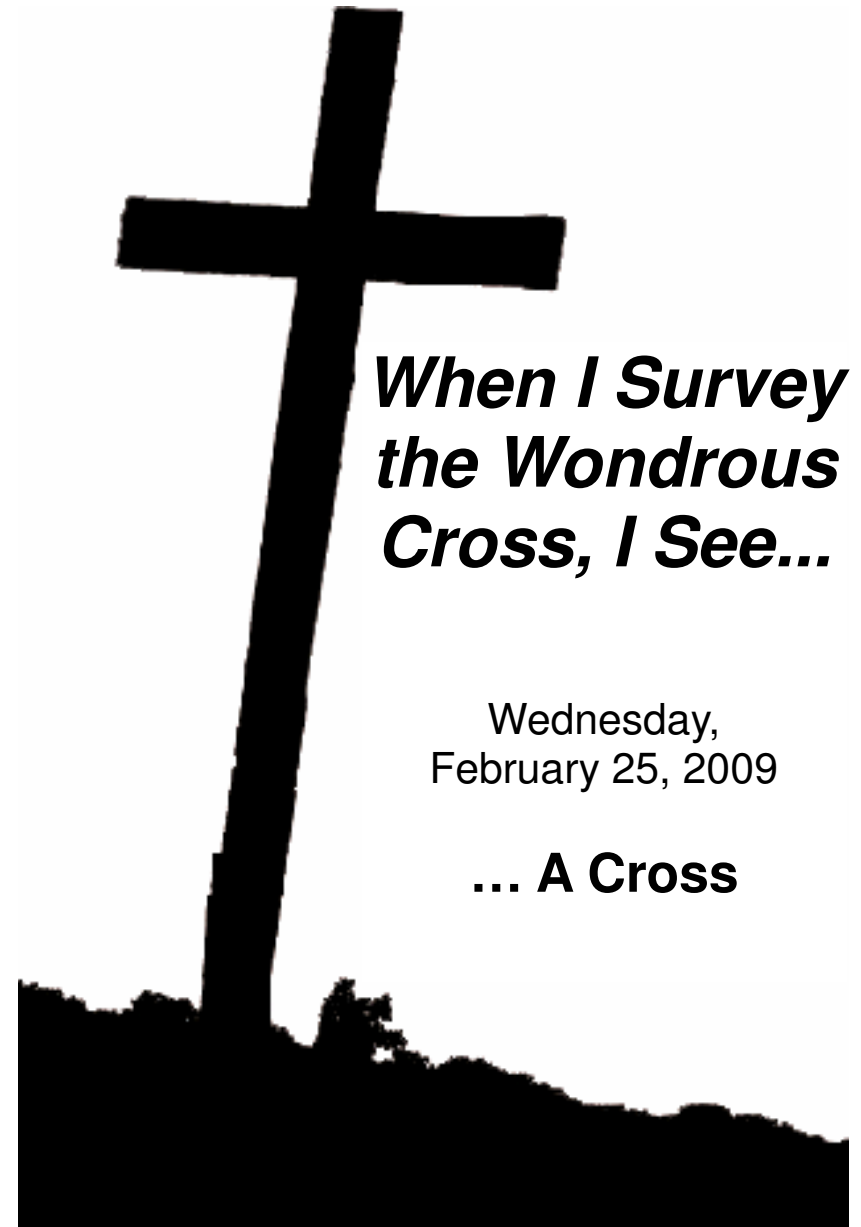
**M:** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN – CW 126 "Lord Jesus, You Are Going Forth"**

*(Hymn will be sung responsively with the congregation singing "The Soul" portions and Pastor singing "Jesus" portions.)*

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Ash Wednesday

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, I See...

*There is no opening hymn.*

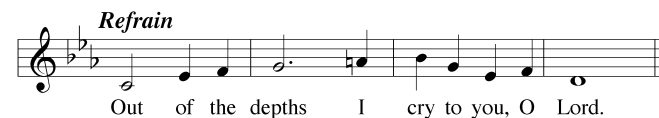
**REMAIN SEATED**

### PSALM 51

*Psalm 51 is said by the congregation in unison.*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.  
Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your  
sight,  
so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when  
you judge.  
Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.  
Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;  
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.  
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.  
Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will turn back to you.  
Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

### PSALM 130



Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; O Lord, / hear my voice.  
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for / mercy.

If you, O LORD, kept a rec- / ord of sins,  
O Lord, / who could stand?

But with you there is for- / giveness;  
therefore / you are feared.

I wait for the LORD, my / soul waits,  
and in his word I / put my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the / morning.

O Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,  
for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- /  
demption.

He himself will redeem / Israel  
from / all their sins.

### SECOND LESSON – LUKE 18:9-14

9 To 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. 11 The 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. 12 I 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.'

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn—CW 304 “Jesus Sinners Does Receive”** *Verses 1,2,6, & 7*

### **FIRST LESSON – 2 SAMUEL 12:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. <sup>2</sup> The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, <sup>3</sup> but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

<sup>4</sup> "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

<sup>5</sup> David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! <sup>6</sup> He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

<sup>7</sup> Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup> I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. <sup>9</sup> Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup> Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

<sup>11</sup> "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. <sup>12</sup> You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.' "

<sup>13</sup> Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.  
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.  
In your good pleasure make Zion prosper;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to  
delight you;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

*Silence for meditation*

### **INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT**

**M:** Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** Most holy and merciful Father,

**C:** **We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault,  
by our own grievous fault  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.**

**M:** We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C:** **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

**M:** We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

**M:** We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.  
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

**C:** **We confess to you, O Lord.**

**M:** Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

**C:** **We confess to you, O Lord.**

**M:** Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

**C:** **We confess to you, O Lord.**

**M:** Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

**C:** **We confess to you, O Lord.**

**M:** Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

**C:** **We confess to you, O Lord.**

**M:** Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C:** **Forgive us, O Lord.**

**M:** For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

**C:** **Forgive us, O Lord.**

**M:** For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

**C:** **Forgive us, O Lord.**

**M:** Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**C:** **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

*Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward. Baptized children may come forward at their parents' discretion.*

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*The minister applies ashes to the forehead of each in the form of a small cross, saying:*

**M:** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After all who desire have received ashes, the minister says:*

**M:** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

**C:** **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**M:** By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

**C:** **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

## ABSOLUTION

**M:** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.