

# THE MESSAGE

SERMON VERSE

## PSALM 6

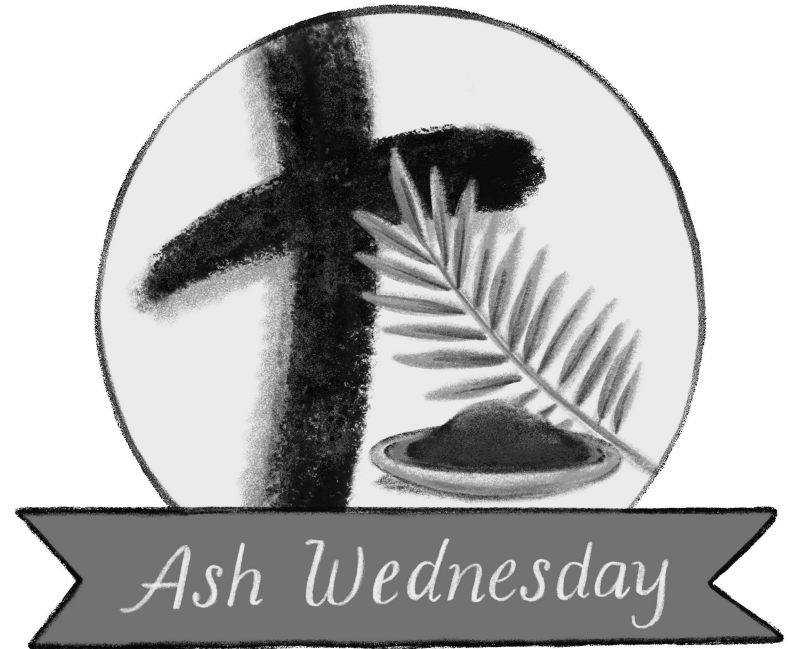
Rev. Ty Zucker

1 O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger,  
nor discipline me in your wrath.  
2 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;  
heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.  
3 My soul also is greatly troubled.  
But you, O Lord— how long?  
4 Turn, O Lord, deliver my life;  
save me for the sake of your steadfast love.  
5 For in death there is no remembrance of you;  
in Sheol who will give you praise?  
6 I am weary with my moaning;  
every night I flood my bed with tears;  
I drench my couch with my weeping.  
7 My eye wastes away because of grief;  
it grows weak because of all my foes.  
8 Depart from me, all you workers of evil,  
for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.  
9 The Lord has heard my plea;  
the Lord accepts my prayer.  
10 All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;  
they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.



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## **PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

God of all mercies, known and unknown, on account of the blood of Christ, You promise to forgive all those who repent of their sin. As we enter this Lenten season, enable us to reflect upon the great sacrifice that Christ made on our behalf, and by faith may we begin to comprehend our utter freedom from sin.

May we readily hear Your word of forgiveness proclaimed, partake of Your body and blood in bread and wine, and stalwartly believe in Your love that shapes our life on earth and our life with You one day in heaven. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

[HolyCrossLutheran.com](http://HolyCrossLutheran.com)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
1209 Coutant St  
Flushing MI 48433  
810.659.5926

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Ashes have been a symbol of contrition for millennia. "I... repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6b). They are also vivid reminders of mortality: "For you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). The imposition of ashes has been therefore a fitting beginning to the season of Lent.

Ashes are usually the remains of the previous Palm Sunday's burned palms, and are applied to the forehead in the sign of the cross. Although powerfully speaking the law (contrition and mortality), ashes also speak the Gospel---applied in the shape of the cross, where sin and death were conquered, and we are cleansed of our sin.

Those who desire to receive the imposition of ashes upon the forehead may come forward in two lines down the middle aisle.