

## LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

**People** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## PAX DOMINI

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**People:** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI "The Lamb" LSB # 547

*Sit*

**THE DISTRIBUTION** *takes place in silence.*

*Stand*

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**People:** Amen.

## BENEDICAMUS

**Pastor:** Let us bless the Lord.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.  
*Numbers 6:24–26*  
**People:** Amen.

**HYMN** "How Can I Thank You, Lord" LSB #703

## Grace Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center

**Ash Wednesday Service**

**March 1, 2017**

## AS WE GATHER

"Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13). With these words, our dear Father tenderly calls all humans, who by nature have turned away from the face-to-face relationship of love for which He has created us. Don't be afraid! He tenderly invites us to return to His fatherly embrace. Jesus on the cross—the shape placed with ashes on your forehead—this Jesus is proof that God is good, and that He loves all people, eagerly awaiting our return to face-to-face communion with Him.

## + PREPARATION +

*The congregation and minister(s) gather in silence. No music is played before the service; no hymn is sung at the beginning of the service. The pastor and attendants enter silently following the draped processional cross. Stand as the cross passes your pew.*

## INVOCATION

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:** Amen.

**HYMN** "To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All" LSB #613

## OPENING SENTENCES *Joel 2:12–13; Psalm 51:1*

**Pastor:** "Yet even now," declares the LORD,  
**People:** "return to Me with all your heart,  
**Pastor:** with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
**People:** and rend your hearts and not your garments."  
**Pastor:** Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,  
**People:** slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.  
**Pastor:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;  
**People:** according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**LITANY** *is read responsively as on page 288-289 in the hymnal, then:*

**Pastor:** O God, You do not desire our death, but rather that we return from following our own ways and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our sinful nature, for we admit that we are but dust returning to dust.

Mercifully forgive our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who return to Your love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES** *Job 42:6; Genesis 3:19*

**Pastor:** Since ancient times, ashes have symbolized contrition. Job confessed, "I . . . repent in dust and ashes." They are also vivid reminders of our mortality: "For you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The imposition of ashes is a fitting beginning to the forty-day Lenten journey. 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 by Jesus, and we are cleansed by the shedding of His blood. Each person present is invited to walk down the aisle and receive the imposition of ashes on their forehead as these words are spoken: "Dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

*Kneel*

**HYMN** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" LSB #426

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for self-examination*

**Pastor:** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

**People:** **The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.**

**People:** **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

**Pastor:** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Now, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus, I invite each of you to come forward and be individually absolved.

## **SANCTUS**

**People:**

LSB #940, verse 1

**Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee. All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heav'n above adore Thee. Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign**

**Pastor:** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;  
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**Pastor:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was Betrayed....."Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper.....This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

**Pastor:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**Pastor:** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

that as we have let our bodies and our minds become servants of uncleanness and sin, so we may now yield them to You as servants of purity and wholeness; that, denying ungodliness and the passions of this present age, we may live sober lives of freedom learning to follow the ways of Jesus; that we may marshal and direct our energies of body, mind, and spirit and bring them into submission to Your will; that sin may not be our master; that we not let ourselves become enslaved by any person, substance, or behavior; that as members of the Body of Christ we crucify our false self with its ego-driven passions and desires; that we each become free enough to let go of all bitterness and wrath and anger; that we may never despise the riches of Your goodness, patience, and steadfast love; that we may consider all things as loss compared to knowing and loving Jesus; that dying to self-centeredness we may live for freedom in the way of Jesus; that through the many troubles of our body, life, and circumstance in this world, You would bring us at last to experience the full and gracious reign of God in the new creation; and that it may please You graciously to hear us:

**People:** **O Son of God, we ask You to hear and answer our prayers.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**People:** **have mercy on us sinners.**

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Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**People:** **have mercy on us sinners.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People:** **have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People:** **have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People:** **have mercy. Amen.**

### + SACRAMENT +

## PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**People:** **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary....angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

*Each person present is invited to walk down the aisle and receive individual absolution. As the pastor absolves, the people respond with "Amen." Then, return to your place and be seated until all have received the same.*

Pastor: By the command of Jesus, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

### + WORD +

*Stand*

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

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.

**People:** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING *Joel 2:12–19*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 51:1–13 is read together as in the front of the hymnal.*

**EPISTLE** *2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**VERSE** *Joel 2:13b*

**People:** **Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

## HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.  
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

## HYMN OF THE DAY “Come Down, O Love Divine” LSB #501

## SERMON

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: O Father, creating all things,  
People: **have mercy.**

Pastor: O God the Son, redeeming all things,  
People: **have mercy.**

Pastor: O God the Holy Spirit, filling all things,  
People: **have mercy.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
People: **have mercy on us sinners.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
People: **have mercy on us sinners.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
People: **have mercy on us sinners.**

Pastor: O God, who takes no pleasure in the death of any person but desires that all who have turned away from You would return from their own ways and discover fullness of life in You;

O God, who invited Adam and Eve after their turning away to be honest about their disobedience; who forgave Your disobedient people Israel at the intercession of Moses; who put away David's sins of murder and adultery when he confessed them before You with a broken and contrite heart; who spared the people of Nineveh when they repented in sackcloth and ashes; who came into the world to save sinners; who received tax collectors and prostitutes and broke bread with them; who delivered Mary Magdalene from the powers of darkness; who in mercy looked with love upon Peter when he denied You; who moved him to weep bitter tears in godly sorrow that leads to returning; who on the cross promised paradise to the thief who asked You to remember him in Your kingdom; who bore our shame in Your own body on the tree; who was wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities, bearing the chastisement that brought us peace; who provides ample time and sacred space for us to get honest and return to You; who disciplines and brings back people whom You love; who does not want any person to be lost, but provides space and time for every person to change; who came to seek and to save lost people; and who as far as the east is from the west remembers our sins no more,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: We poor sinners ask You to hear us:

That it may please You to bring us to truthful repentance; that, getting honest with ourselves, we may experience freedom from condemnation; that in due time Your Spirit may bring forth its fruit in our lives;