

## ASH WEDNESDAY

*March 5, 2025*

### † PREPARATION †

**HYMN**      *"I Lay My Sins on Jesus" LSB #606*

*Stand*

### INVOCATION

**Pastor:**      In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:**      **Amen.**

**PSALM**      *Psalm 51*

**Pastor:**      Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**People:**      **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

**Pastor:**      For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**People:**      **Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

**Pastor:**      Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**People:**      **Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

**Pastor:**      Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**People:**      **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**

**Pastor:**      Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**People:**      **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Pastor:**      Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

**People:**      **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**Pastor:**      Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

**People:**      **Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness.**

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.  
**People: For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.  
**People: Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;**

Pastor: then will You delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**     *(Sit, stand or kneel as you prefer)*

**HYMN**             *"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" LSB #609, verses 1-3*

Pastor: Let us now confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

**HYMN**             *"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" LSB #609, verse 4*

Pastor: God has promised to hear the penitent cries of His people and for the sake of Jesus, our Savior, grants remission of sins. 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.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN**             *"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" LSB #609, verses 5-7*

*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*

## **HYMN INTRODUCTION**

The season of Lent as a time of prayer, fasting, and repentance has a long history in the Christian Church. All the way back in the year AD 325, a document from the Council of Nicaea set forth a forty-day period leading up to Holy Week and Easter as a time of special devotion. The hymn “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” recalls the time Jesus went without food in the wilderness prior to His temptation by Satan. Through the words of the hymn, we pray that our observance of a holy Lent would reflect the sacrificial love and determination of our Savior as He carried out God’s gracious plan of salvation for us.

The text of this hymn for Ash Wednesday was written by American Lutheran hymn writer Gilbert Doan in the twentieth century as a paraphrase of a Lenten hymn for children written by Claudia Hernaman, an English author of more than 150 hymn texts in the previous century. Although it may have initially been directed at young people, its closing stanza serves as a prayer for people of every age, that the Lord would be with us during this time of spiritual observance and sustain us until we come to the joys of the eternal Easter celebration. The tune to which the hymn is now sung is from seventeenth-century Scotland.

**HYMN**       *“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” LSB #418*

### **† WORD †**

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

**Lector:**       This is the Word of the Lord.

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

**GRADUAL**       *Hebrews 12:2*

**Pastor:**       O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
**People:**       **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**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*

**Pastor:** Return to the Lord, your God,

**People:** 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** *Apostles' Creed*

**People:** 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.  
On 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.**

*Sit*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” LSB #563*

**SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN**            *“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” LSB #422*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**    *LSB, p. 215*

Pastor:            Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**            **hear our prayer.**

Pastor:            May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil’s kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**            **hear our prayer.**

Pastor:            Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [*name(s)*] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**            **hear our prayer.**

Pastor:            Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**            **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### † SACRAMENT †

**PREFACE**     *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross. In Him alone is the promise of the forgiveness of sins and the assurance of life everlasting in Your gracious kingdom. Guided by the Holy Spirit and taught by our Savior, we say together:



**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.**

**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, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “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, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**SANCTUS**     *p. 161 in LSB*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**PAX DOMINI**

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

**People:**     **Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI**     *p. 163 in LSB*

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*Stand*

## **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

*Pastor: Let us pray.  
We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have again refreshed us with the body and blood of Your only-begotten Son. As You have covered us in the righteousness of Your beloved Son, grant that we walk with faith and hope in these days that You have blessed as we await the glory of heaven, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**People: Amen.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Pastor: 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** *LSB, pp. 484–85*

*Pastor: O Lord,*

**People: have mercy.**

*Pastor: O Christ,*

**People: have mercy.**

*Pastor: O Lord,*

**People: have mercy.**

*Pastor: O Christ,*

**People: hear us.**

*Pastor: God the Father in heaven,*



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

*Pastor: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,*

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

*Pastor: God the Holy Spirit,*

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

*Pastor: Be gracious to us.*

**People:** **Spare us, good Lord.**

*Pastor: Be gracious to us.*

**People:** **Help us, good Lord.**

*Pastor: 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:*

**People:** **Help us, good Lord.**

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

**People:** **Help us, good Lord.**

*Pastor: We poor sinners implore You*

**People:** **to hear us, O Lord.**

*Pastor: To prosper the preaching 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:*

**People:** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

*Pastor: 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.*

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

*As the ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

*Stand*

## **CLOSING COLLECT**

**Pastor:** *Let us pray.*  
*Almighty God, we beseech You to grant us true repentance and Your Holy Spirit, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy and that at the last we may come to Your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

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

## **BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*

**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.*

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

## **HYMN**      *“Savior, When in Dust to Thee” LSB #419*

## **DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** *Go in peace as you serve the Lord.*

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

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