

**St. John Lutheran Church & School**  
**Berlin, Wisconsin**  
**The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**



***Ash Wednesday***  
***March 5, 2025***

**Serving Us Today:**  
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***Large Print Bulletin***

## ***The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives***

### **As We Gather**

The Christmas trees we decorated with careful hands just a few months ago have come and gone. The account of our salvation in Jesus Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem, has progressed from the manger through the Epiphany light of our Lord's proclamation of "liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18; see Isaiah 61:1). The palm fronds we held and waved with our hands with cheers and hosannas a year ago have since withered and turned to the ashes we bless this night in hope. Lent returns, reminding us that the Christian life is one of repeated, daily repentance and faith because, though our deliverance is made sure, we walk by faith in the "not yet" of complete holiness and final release from sin. Repentance means we come this night with empty hands, that is, the confession of our total need of God's mercy, grace, and deliverance. We come to the God who has revealed Himself in love in the forgiveness of our sin by means of His own bloody, substitutionary sacrifice in our own human flesh for us and for our salvation. With the pastor's hands the ashes of our failings and sin are placed over the sign we received at our Baptism, and we are welcomed to repentance and faith freely given by the hand of the Lord.

### **Ash Wednesday Address**

P 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.

## **Opening Sentences**

## ***Psalm 90***

P Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

**C You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**

P You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

**C For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.**

P For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You?

**C So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

P Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on Your servants!

**C Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

P Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.

**C Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children.**

P Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

### ***Silence for reflection***

P 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.

**C Amen.**

### **The Imposition of Ashes**

**419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee**

**1 Savior, when in dust to Thee**

**Low we bow the\_adoring knee;**

**When, repentant, to the skies**

**Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
O, by all Thy pains and woe  
Suffered once for us below,  
    Bending from Thy throne on high,  
Hear our penitential cry!**

**2 By Thy helpless infant years,  
By Thy life of want and tears,  
    By Thy days of deep distress  
    In the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour  
Of the\_ insulting tempter's pow'r,  
    Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye;  
Hear our penitential cry!**

**3 By Thine hour of dire despair,  
By Thine agony of prayer,  
    By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
    Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies  
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,  
    Listen to our humble sigh;  
Hear our penitential cry!**

**4 By Thy deep expiring groan,  
By the sad sepulchral stone,  
    By the vault whose dark abode  
    Held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav'n restored,**

**Mighty, reascended Lord,  
Bending from Thy throne on high,  
Hear our penitential cry!**

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt. Text: Public domain

### **Invocation**

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

*Joel 2:13*

P Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

P Let us rend our hearts, confessing our sins to God, our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by our own hands, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. He has opened His hands in the free blessings of the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I

therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## **Word**

### **Salutation**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

### **Collect of the Day**

P Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, we are reminded of our dependence upon You as the giver of life and salvation through Christ's cross and resurrection. Keep us ever mindful that You have filled our empty hands with Your blessing. Guard us from seeking the earthly reward of human praise only to the neglect of the reward that You give us by Your grace; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Joel 2:12–19*

P The Old Testament Reading is from Joel, the second chapter.

<sup>12</sup>"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup>and rend your hearts and not your garments."

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;

and he relents over disaster.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn  
assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Consecrate the congregation;  
assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers  
of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
and make not your heritage a reproach,  
a byword among the nations. Why should they say among  
the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his  
people.

<sup>19</sup>The LORD answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am  
sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied;  
and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle**

*2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:2*

P The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, the fifth and sixth  
chapters.

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our  
sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we  
might become the righteousness of God.



<sup>1</sup>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 6:1–6*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room and

shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

**615                      When in the Hour of Deepest Need**

**1 When in the hour of deepest need**

**We know not where to look for aid;**

**When days and nights of anxious thought**

**No help or counsel yet have brought,**

**2 Then is our comfort this alone**

**That we may meet before Your throne;**

**To You, O faithful God, we cry**

**For rescue in our misery.**

**3 For You have promised, Lord, to heed**

**Your children's cries in time of need**

**Through Him whose name alone is great,**

**Our Savior and our advocate.**

**4 And so we come, O God, today**

**And all our woes before You lay;**

**For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,**

**Perplexed by fears on ev'ry hand.**

**5 O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;**

**Absolve us through Your boundless grace.**

**Be with us in our anguish still;  
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.**

**6 So we with all our hearts each day  
To You our glad thanksgiving pay,  
Then walk obedient to Your Word,**

**And now and ever praise You, Lord.**

Text: Paul Eber, 1511–69; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **Sermon**

### **Nicene Creed**

**C 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.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

1. You shall have no other gods.

**Lord, I confess that I have failed to fear, love, and trust in you  
above all things.**

2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

**Lord, I confess that I have cursed, sworn, and deceived by your name. I have also failed to call upon it in every trouble and give you thanks and praise by it.**

3. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

**Lord, I confess that I have despised preaching and your Word and have failed to hold it sacred and always gladly hear and learn from it.**

4. Honor your father and your mother.

**Lord, I have despised and angered my parents and other authorities and have failed to honor, serve, obey, love, and cherish them as I ought.**

5. You shall not murder.

**Lord, I confess that I have caused hurt and harm to my neighbor and have failed to help and support him in every physical need.**

6. You shall not commit adultery.

**Lord, I confess that I have not led a sexually pure and decent life in what I say, do, and think, and, if I am married, I have failed to fully love and honor my spouse.**

7. You shall not steal.

**Lord, I confess that I have in dishonest ways taken my neighbors' money and possessions, and I have failed to always help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.**

8. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

**Lord, I confess that I have told gossiped about, slandered, and hurt the reputation of my neighbors and have failed to always defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.**

9 & 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house, his wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Lord, I confess that I have desired and been jealous of my neighbors' possessions and have failed to always aid him in keeping and improving them.**

## **Offering**

## **Sacrament**

**Preface *LSB 160***

**P The Lord be with you.**

**C And also with you.**

**P Lift up your hearts.**

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

**P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **Proper Preface**

P Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## **Sanctus**

*LSB 161*

**C 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.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 162*

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C 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**

**P** 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."

## **Pax Domini**

**LSB 163**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C Amen.**

## **Agnus Dei LSB 163**

**C 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 Hymns**

**607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee**

**1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee,  
In trial and tribulation;**



**Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,  
Lord, hear my supplication.  
If Thou rememb'rest ev'ry sin,  
Who then could heaven ever win  
Or stand before Thy presence?**

**2 Thy love and grace alone avail  
To blot out my transgression;  
The best and holiest deeds must fail  
To break sin's dread oppression.  
Before Thee none can boasting stand,  
But all must fear Thy strict demand  
And live alone by mercy.**

**3 Therefore my hope is in the Lord  
And not in mine own merit;  
It rests upon His faithful Word  
To them of contrite spirit  
That He is merciful and just;  
This is my comfort and my trust.  
His help I wait with patience.**

**4 And though it tarry through the night  
And till the morning waken,  
My heart shall never doubt His might  
Nor count itself forsaken.  
O Israel, trust in God your Lord.  
Born of the Spirit and the Word,  
Now wait for His appearing.**

**5 Though great our sins, yet greater still  
Is God's abundant favor;  
His hand of mercy never will  
Abandon us, nor waver.  
Our shepherd good and true is He,  
Who will at last His Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow.**

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–  
1546 Text: Public domain

**843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"**

**1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"**

**You taught us, Lord, to pray;  
But You alone can grant us grace  
To live the words we say.**

**2 How can Your pardon reach and bless**

**The unforgiving heart  
That broods on wrongs and will not let  
Old bitterness depart?**

**3 In blazing light Your cross reveals**

**The truth we dimly knew:  
What trivial debts are owed to us,  
How great our debt to You!**

**4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls**

**And bid resentment cease;**

**Then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
Our lives will spread Your peace.**

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt.Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We give thanks to You, O God, that by Your hand this day You have satisfied our deepest desire, the renewal of our hearts and spirits by the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of everlasting life. Help us to have generous and thankful hearts and hands to share Your mercy and grace as we forgive our neighbors as we ourselves have been forgiven by You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **Benediction**

*LSB 166*

P 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.

**C Amen.**

## **722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me**

**1 Lord, take my hand and lead me**

**Upon life's way;**

**Direct, protect, and feed me**

**From day to day.**

**Without Your grace and favor**

**I go astray;**

**So take my hand, O Savior,**

**And lead the way.**

**2 Lord, when the tempest rages,**

**I need not fear,**

**For You, the Rock of Ages,**

**Are always near.**

**Close by Your side abiding,**

**I fear no foe,**

**For when Your hand is guiding,**

**In peace I go.**

**3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen**

**And night has come,**

**I know that You will strengthen**

**My steps toward home.**

**Then nothing can impede me,**

**O blessed Friend;**

**So take my hand and lead me**

**Unto the end.**

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

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