

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



Ash Wednesday Service
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Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... We are beginning Lent, the forty days we set aside to focus on our Lord's Passion as we lead up to Easter. The Lord calls us to "Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning," and Joel calls for a "solemn assembly" (Joel 2:12, 15). It is time to "to receive the grace of God" (2 Corinthians 6:1). And it is a time for active dialogue between each of us and our Father in heaven, as Jesus instructs in the Gospel. The readings from Exodus, which shall guide our worship through Lent, though, also provide us with Good News. We do not deserve it, but God hears and answers our cries. Be ready to pray; be ready to thank our gracious God.

PREPARATION

915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.**

- 2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,**

**A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.**

**3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.**

**4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.**

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession

Psalm 130

P Our faith in God is tested when it seems He is not listening to us. The problem is not how God answers but in our limited confession and our failure to totally trust Him for all we need. But God is listening and will answer! Let us now go to our gracious God in confession, expecting Him to hear our cries: Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!

C O Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

P If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

C my soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

P O Israel, hope in the LORD!

C For with the LORD there is steadfast love and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Imposition of Ashes

P Symbolizing our repentance, come forward as ushered to receive a cross of ashes on your forehead.

P Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

C Amen.

Absolution

P In His great mercy, God sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who took all our sins to the cross. In His stead and by His command, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Thanks be to God.

WORD

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.

C Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 1: 1-6

¹In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, ²"The LORD was very angry with your fathers.

³Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to

me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the LORD. ⁵Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? ⁶But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, As the LORD of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 7:8–13a

⁸For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. ⁹As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

¹⁰For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. ¹¹For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. ¹²So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your

earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God.
¹³Therefore we are comforted.

And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Joel 2:13b

P Return to the LORD, your God,

**C for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and
abounding in steadfast love.**

613 To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All

**1 To Thee, omniscient Lord of all,
In grief and shame I humbly call;
I see my sins against Thee, Lord,
The sins of thought and deed and word.
They press me sore; I cry to Thee:
O God, be merciful to me!**

**2 O Lord, my God, to Thee I pray:
O cast me not in wrath away!
Let Thy good Spirit ne'er depart,
But let Him draw to Thee my heart**

**That truly penitent I be:
O God, be merciful to me!**

**3 O Jesus, let Thy precious blood
Be to my soul a cleansing flood.
Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest away,
But grant that justified I may
Go to my house at peace with Thee:
O God, be merciful to me!**

Text: Magnus Brostrup Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon “Return to Me!”

Nicene Creed

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.**

Ash Wednesday Prayers

Ash Wednesday begins the church season of Lent – a time to focus on our sinfulness and repentance. Because of that, our prayer tonight is one of reflection on the Ten Commandments. I will speak the commandment and you will respond with a confession to the Lord.

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

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, let us now and evermore praise God's glorious name, singing:

Sanctus *LSB 208*

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim

shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

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."

Proclamation of Christ

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

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P 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:

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

**C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution Hymn

579 The Law of God Is Good and Wise

**1 The Law of God is good and wise
And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness,
And dooms to death when we transgress.**

**2 Its light of holiness imparts
The knowledge of our sinful hearts
That we may see our lost estate
And turn from sin before too late.**

**3 To those who help in Christ have found
And would in works of love abound**

**It shows what deeds are His delight
And should be done as good and right.**

**4 But those who scornfully disdain
God's Law shall then in sin remain;
Its terror in their ear resounds
And keeps their wickedness in bounds.**

**5 The Law is good; but since the fall
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die
And has no pow'r to justify.**

**6 To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.**

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt. Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve 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

P The Lord, who has heard your cries for mercy, bless you.

The Lord, who sent His only-begotten Son into the flesh to die
and rise for you, bless you.

The Lord, who has worked faith in your hearts to hear and
respond to His answers, bless you today, tomorrow, and forever.

C Amen.

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