

WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Ash WEDNESDAY

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO FREELY GIVES

MARCH 5, 2025 ❖ 7 PM

✠ As We Gather ✠

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.

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

OPENING HYMN

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

LSB 418



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.
skill and trust In God’s e - ter - nal Word.
ny our - selves, Since we have known God’s love.
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en’s praise.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

Matt. 28:19b; [18:20]

CONFESSION & 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.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P Merciful Father,

C We confess that we have sinned against You and against one another. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We sincerely repent of our sins and ask Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to grant us forgiveness. 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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P We are indeed forgiven in Christ. Still, in this world, we suffer the wages of sin, which is death. We endure pain, disease, and grief. Today we receive the mark of the cross upon us in the form of ashes. These ashes remind us that we are merely dust and ashes, that when we die, our bodies will return to dust and ashes. But the sign of the cross reminds us that dust and ashes are not the end for us. When Jesus returns, He will raise us from the dead, and we will live forever with Him in the new creation.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(Those who desire to receive the mark of ashes may come forward and stand before the pastor. The pastor applies the ashes in the shape of the cross to the forehead or hand while saying to each person, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The penitent responds, "Amen.")

IMPOSITION HYMN

Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

✠ Service of the Word ✠

KYRIE

P Lord, have mercy.

C **Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12-19

¹²"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and 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.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between 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?'"

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for His land and had pity on His people.

¹⁹The 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."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

P O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
C **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 READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

^{20b}We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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.

³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE FOR LENT

LSB p. 157

☪ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and
mer-ci-ful, slow to an-ger, and a-bound-ing in
stead-fast love, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

(Please rise)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[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.

²"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. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"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. ⁶But 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. ...

¹⁶"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

THE 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.**

SERMON HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

SERMON

"The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives"

Rev. Deterding

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

✠ Service of the 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.

2 Tim. 4:22; Col. 3:1; Ps. 136

P 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, our Lord, into whose hands You gave the awesome task of perfectly fulfilling Your holy Law, and yet offering Himself as the one and only sacrifice sufficient to redeem mankind. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

*Scan the code for
our understanding
of the Lord's Supper*



SANCTUS *(sung)*

LSB 507, v. 4

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessèd Trinity!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have shown Your gracious power to us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. We give You thanks that, in the fellowship of His Table, we are blessed to receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood as He exchanges the ashes of our sin for His perfect righteousness. Hear us now as we pray in His name and in the words He has taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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 *Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI *(sung)*

LSB, p. 163

■ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION ~ *Welcome to the Lord's Table.* *(An usher will direct you.)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

When in the Hour of Deepest Need

LSB 615

1 When in the hour of deep - est need We know not
2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone That we may
3 For You have prom - ised, Lord, to heed Your chil-dren's
4 And so we come, O God, to - day And all our



where to look for aid; When days and nights of
 meet be - fore Your throne; To You, O faith - ful
 cries in time of need Through Him whose name a -
 woes be - fore You lay; For sore - ly tried, cast



anx - ious thought No help or coun - sel yet have brought,
 God, we cry For res - cue in our mis - er - y.
 lone is great, Our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.
 down, we stand, Per - plexed 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.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P O God the Father, who in love and mercy sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that You have given us pardon and peace in this Supper. Grant us the faith to always trust that because of Your Son's death and resurrection, You have taken the ashes of our sin and given us the beauty of Your forgiveness; 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

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you...

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Now the Light Has Gone Away

LSB 887



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;
3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;
4 Now my eve-ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
5 Thou, my best and kind-est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.
O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.
All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.



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