

Ash Wednesday

Divine Service 3 from Lutheran Service Book - begins on page 184

As We Gather - Mutual Consideration

How close is your relationship with Jesus? According to Paul, “All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death,” and “if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His” (Romans 6:3, 5). Your Baptism has brought you so close to Jesus that you share death, life, and all things with Him. Therefore, when David said of Jesus in Psalm 41:1, “Blessed is the one who considers the poor,” he was also speaking of you. Your blessed Lord Jesus considers you—a poor, miserable sinner—and He will surely deliver you in the day of trouble so that you, too, will be “called blessed in the land” (Psalm 41:2).

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.

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.

Science for Reflection

Litany

P: O Lord,
C: have mercy.
P: O Christ,
C: have mercy.
P: O Lord,
C: have mercy.
P: O Christ,
C: hear us.
P: God the Father in heaven,
C: have mercy.
P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C: have mercy.
P: God the Holy Spirit,
C: have mercy.

P: Be gracious to us.

C: Spare us, good Lord.

P: Be gracious to us.

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: 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:

C: Help us, good Lord.

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

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: We poor sinners implore You

C: to hear us, O Lord.

P: 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:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: we implore You to hear us.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

P: O Christ,

C: hear us.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy. Amen.

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 +

Those wishing to receive ashes are to come forward to the Baptismal font. After receiving the ashes, each person returns to their place in silence.

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

Hymn of the Day

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive” - Hymn 609

**Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin’s delusions live And from God and heaven’s wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich grace revealing
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Sheep that from the fold did stray, No true shepherd e’er forsaketh
Weary souls that lost their way, Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In his arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**I, a sinner, come to Thee, With a penitent confession
Savior, mercy show to me: Grant for all my sins remission
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev’ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699;

setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

Invocation & Confession and Absolution - page 184-185

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

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-evaluation

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

C: Amen.

Salutation and the Collect of the Day - pages 189-190

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19

L: The Old Testament Reading for Ash Wednesday is taken from Job, Chapter 2:

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
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.

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?

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

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?’”

Then the Lord became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from 2nd Corinthians, Chapters 5 and 6:

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th Chapter:

 **C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

(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.

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

“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. 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.

“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...

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that 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.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

A: 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.

Hymn

“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days” - Hymn 418

**O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin, And free us from our past.**

**You strove with Satan, and You won; Your faithfulness endured
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust, In God's eternal Word.**

**Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed, And fixed Your mind above
So teach us to deny ourselves, Since we have known God's love**

**Be with us through this season, Lord, And all our earthly days
That when the final Easter dawns, We join un heaven's praise.**

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930

Tune: *The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1635; setting: *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

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Sermon

 **Offertory** - page 192

**A: Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away from Thy presence
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

The Service of the Sacrament

Begins on page 194

Preface - page 194

 **P:** The Lord be with you.

 **C:** **And with thy spirit.**

 **P:** Lift up your hearts.

 **C:** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

 **P:** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

 **C:** **It is meet and right so to do.**

Proper Preface - page 195

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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus - page 195

A: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabbaoth
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

Lord's Prayer - spoken, page 196

A: **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 - spoken, page 197

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 \mp 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 \mp 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 - page 197

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

C: **Amen.**

Agnus Dei - page 198

A: O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Communion Distribution

Communion Dismissal - page 198

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C: Amen.

Nunc Dimittis - page 198-199

A: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
According to Thy word
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people
A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Thanksgiving - page 200

 **P:** O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

 **C:** and His mercy endureth forever.

P: We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have again refreshed us with the body and blood of Your only-begotten Son. As You have enriched and strengthened us at Your Table by Your grace, grant that we daily respond to Your blessings with thanks and praise, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 **C:** Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus - page 202

 **P:** The Lord be with you.

 **C:** And with thy spirit.

 **P:** Bless we the Lord

 **C: Thanks be to God.**

Benediction - page 202

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

 **C: Amen, amen, amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” - Hymn 436

**Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempters pow’r
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the Judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss; Learn for Him to bear the cross**

**Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete
“It is finished!” Hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

**Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes, Savior, teach us so to rise.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text and music: Public domain