



## Ash Wednesday

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Prospect Heights, IL

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The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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### As We Gather

As we begin this Lenten season, we once again hear that call to return to the Lord, our God. God says, "Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments" (Joel 2:12–13). Once again, we return from our wandering to our gracious and merciful God who has paved the way for us to be reconciled to Him through His Son, Jesus. "For our sake He made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:20). Because of Jesus, our heavenly Father rewards us with the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live lives of righteous service in His name.

## PREPARATION

### Old Testament Reading

*Joel 2:12–19*

<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."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## 423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

- 1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,  
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary,  
Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended,  
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended,  
You have borne the pain of all.
- 2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,  
Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,  
See Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us  
Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us  
Calms the sinner's deep distress.
- 3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning  
To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never  
From the blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever,  
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

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### Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

### Salutation

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day for Ash Wednesday

- P 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.

- C **Amen.**

### Epistle

*2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

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. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>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.**

## Confessional Address

*Joel 2:12*

- P As we begin this Lenten season, we may not be wearing sackcloth and ashes, but we are heeding our Lord's call to "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." We join in King David's prayer of confession in Psalm 51.

## Psalm

*Psalm 51:1–13; antiphon v. 17*

- P The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
C **a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**
- P Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;  
C **according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**
- P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
C **and cleanse me from my sin!**
- P For I know my transgressions,  
C **and my sin is ever before me.**
- P Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,  
C **so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**
- P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.  
C **Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**
- P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
C **wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**
- P Let me hear joy and gladness;  
C **let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**
- P Hide Your face from my sins,  
C **and blot out all my iniquities.**
- P Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
C **and renew a right spirit within me.**
- P Cast me not away from Your presence,  
C **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**
- P Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
C **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- P Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.  
C **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.**
- P The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
C **a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

## Prayer of Repentance

*Genesis 3:19*

- P Almighty and everlasting God, You spoke to Adam and Eve in the garden and said, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." Your people of ancient times wore sackcloth and ashes as a sign of repentance. We remember our sinfulness through the ashes and remember the gracious gift of forgiveness through the cross of Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
C **Amen.**

## Absolution

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, our God has called us to *return* to Him so that we might be *reconciled* and receive the *reward* of His forgiveness. The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. 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.**

## Verse

*Joel 2:13b*

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

## Holy Gospel

*Mark 14:1 - 9*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourteenth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes seeking how to arrest [Jesus] by stealth and kill him, <sup>2</sup>for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people." <sup>3</sup>And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. <sup>4</sup>There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? <sup>5</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup>But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup>For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. <sup>9</sup>And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## 531 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

1 Hail, Thou once despised Jesus!  
Hail, Thou Galilean King!  
Thou didst suffer to release us;  
Thou didst free salvation bring.  
Hail, Thou universal Savior,  
Bearer of our sin and shame!  
By Thy merit we find favor:  
Life is given through Thy name.

2 Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,  
All our sins on Thee were laid;  
By almighty love anointed,  
Thou hast full atonement made.  
All Thy people are forgiven  
Through the virtue of Thy blood;  
Opened is the gate of heaven,  
Reconciled are we with God.

3 Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory,  
There forever to abide;  
All the heav'nly hosts adore Thee,  
Seated at Thy Father's side.  
There for sinners Thou art pleading;  
There Thou dost our place prepare,  
Ever for us interceding  
Till in glory we appear.

4 Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing  
Thou art worthy to receive;  
Highest praises, without ceasing,  
Right it is for us to give.  
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,  
All your noblest anthems raise;  
Help to sing our Savior's merits,  
Help to chant Immanuel's praise!

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## Homily

## 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  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

P O Lord, we thank You for calling us to return to You.

C **We place our confidence and trust in the reality that You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and You relent over disaster.**

P O Lord, through Christ, You reconciled us to Yourself and have given us the ministry of reconciliation.

C **We are Your servants. Lead and empower us by Your Spirit to live lives worthy of this calling that we have received.**

P O Lord, You have freely rewarded us with the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

C **Lead us to serve You in secret as we would with the world watching so that others may see You through us.**

## The 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, *especially* Hedy Beer, Kathleen, Alicia, Sallyann, Sheila, Lou, Jean Staffa, Dana, Kaylee, Leah, Terri, Rory, Jean, Ray Wirsing, Rod Isaacson, Sharlene, Fran, Doug, Paula, Wally Olson, and Pastor Barber and his family; 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 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 Your own; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

# 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 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, who has called us to return to You through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was without sin yet took on our sin so that we might be reconciled to You through His perfect life, death, and resurrection, in order that we might be brought to You with cleansed hearts and renewed spirits to receive our eternal reward. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for You called us to return to You to receive Your grace and mercy as it is freely offered through Your only-begotten Son, who bore our sin to be our Savior so that we might be reconciled by His blood. With cleansed and renewed hearts, we receive the salvation won for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and blood—once for all time.

Gathered together as Your people and reconciled through the very blood of Christ, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## 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 T 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 T 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.**

### **Communion**

### **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

P Let us pray.

We thank You, almighty God, for calling us to return to You, reconciling us through the sacrifice of Your one and only Son, Jesus Christ, and rewarding us with forgiveness, life, salvation, and Your continual presence. Thank You for nourishing our bodies and souls with Your Son's body and blood that was given and shed for us. Empower us by Your Spirit to live lives of service to 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.**

### **Blessing**

P The Almighty Father, the Christ, ✠ the Son of the Blessed One, and the Holy Spirit strengthen you in believing and guard you in peace.

C **Amen.**

### **422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image**

1 On my heart imprint Your image,  
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures  
Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation,  
And my glory and salvation!

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