



March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

- ♪ I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God; He bears them all and frees us  
From the accursèd load. I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains  
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.
- ♪ I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him; He heals all my diseases;  
My soul He does redeem. I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;  
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.
- ♪ I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine; His right hand me embraces;  
I on His breast recline. I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;  
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 606 - Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89; Public Domain*

## Invocation

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

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

### Psalmody *Please Be Seated*

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**

Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

**Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness.**

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

**Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;**

Then will You delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

**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.**

## **Confession Hymn**

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive” (vv. 1-4)

Let us now confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

- ♪ Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin’s delusions live And from God and heaven 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.

*A Time of Silence*

## **The Absolution**

God has promised to hear the penitent cries of His people and for the sake of Jesus, His Son, our Savior, grants remission of sins. 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.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn of Response**

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive” (vv. 5-7)

- ♪ 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.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 609 - Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756; Public Domain*

## Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Gracious and merciful God, You forgive the sins of all who come to You with penitent and contrite hearts. Grant us the spirit of true repentance to acknowledge our sins and to find in You forgiveness and restoration, wholeness, and peace; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer.

**Amen.**

## Hymn Introduction

### The Hymn

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

- ♪ 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 in heaven’s praise.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 418 - Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930–2024  
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005255*

## 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.

## The Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20–6:10

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. 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.

## Gradual Hymn

“Just As I Am”

- ♪ Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- ♪ Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- ♪ Just as I am, though tossed about With many\_a conflict, many\_a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- ♪ Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- ♪ Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- ♪ Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 570 - Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871; Public Domain.*

## Holy Gospel Please Stand

Luke 22:39–51

<sup>39</sup>And (Jesus) came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup>And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” <sup>41</sup>And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup>saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” <sup>43</sup>And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. <sup>44</sup>And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. <sup>45</sup>And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

<sup>47</sup>While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup>but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you

betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” <sup>49</sup>And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” <sup>50</sup>And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup>But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.

## Nicene Creed

### The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”

- ♪ Jesus, grant that balm and healing In Your holy wounds I find,  
Ev’ry hour that I am feeling Pains of body and of mind.  
Should some evil thought within Tempt my treach’rous heart to sin,  
Show the peril, and from sinning Keep me from its first beginning.
- ♪ Should some lust or sharp temptation Fascinate my sinful mind,  
Draw me to Your cross and passion, And new courage I shall find.  
Or should Satan press me hard, Let me then be on my guard,  
Saying, “Christ for me was wounded,” That the tempter flee confounded.
- ♪ If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road,  
With seductive, sinful vices, Let me weigh the awful load  
You were willing to endure. Help me flee all thoughts impure  
And to master each temptation, Calm in prayer and meditation.
- ♪ Ev’ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;  
When I’m faint, Your cross revives me, Granting new life to my soul.  
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet Ev’ry bitter cup I meet;  
For Your all-atoning passion Has procured my soul’s salvation.
- ♪ O my God, my rock and tower, Grant that in Your death I trust,  
Knowing death has lost its power Since You crushed it in the dust.  
Savior, let Your agony Ever help and comfort me;  
When I die be my protection, Light and life and resurrection.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 421 - Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Composite, alt. Public Domain.*

## Proclamation of the Word

“Jesus: Our Cover”

Luke 22:39–51

### Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

## Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

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

## Proper Preface

## Lord's Prayer

### Words of Our Lord

#### Preparation Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”

- ♪ Draw near and take the body of the Lord, And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the victim and Himself the priest.
- ♪ He who His saints in this world rules and shields, To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole, Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
- ♪ Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere, And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow As in this feast of love You bless us now.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 637 - Text: Latin, 7<sup>th</sup> Cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66; alt. Public Domain.*

#### Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

### Distribution of the Lord's Supper

#### Post-Communion Prayer

#### Imposition of Ashes

Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return.

#### Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**Amen.**

#### Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Savior When in Dust to Thee”

- ♪ 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!
- ♪ 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!
- ♪ 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!
- ♪ 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!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 419 - Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt. Public Domain.*

### Door Offering