

ASH WEDNESDAY

A CALL TO RETURN

Through the words of the prophet Joel, God called to His people and commanded that they turn from their sinful ways and return to Him for His grace and blessings. The images the prophet uses are vivid and disturbing. The situation of God's people is desperate and needs immediate attention. This is a time for listening and responding to the call to return to faithfulness to the God who has ever been faithful to His people. "Return to the Lord, your God" is more than a verse sung as part of the liturgy. It is a heartfelt directive for our lives as together we follow the pathway of Lent.

+ PREPARATION +

Stand

ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS

P In the prophet Joel we read, "Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." Lent is a season during which the whole church is encouraged to assess our faithfulness to the Lord Jesus, to recognize where we have fallen short, to repent of our sins, and to return to the Lord through the Means of Grace.

In the Holy Scriptures, ashes symbolize repentance. On this occasion, ashes mark our foreheads as a reminder that "we are dust and to dust we shall return." These ashes are in the shape of a cross, as a reminder that through the cross of Christ our sins are forgiven. Marked with the sign of our humanity and our redemption in Christ, we are called to daily die to sin and be raised to new life with Christ. The new life in Christ is marked by the fruit of the Spirit as a way of life to which we now aspire by the grace of God. So, "return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13).

Silence 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 teaching 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 prayer; 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.**

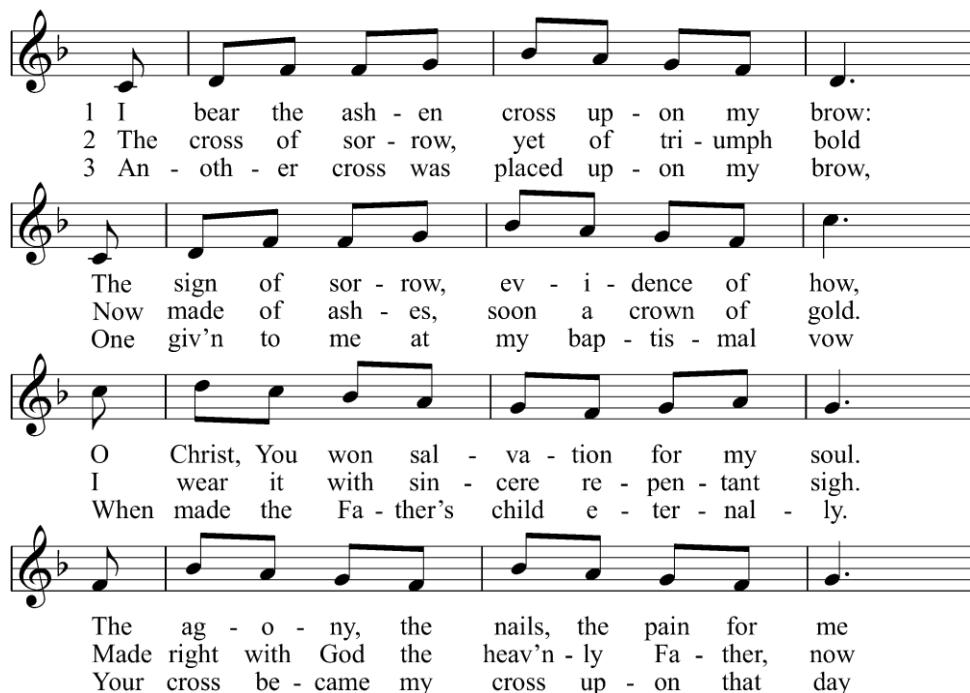
P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You 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.**

Sit

+ THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES +

195 I Bear the Ashen Cross



1 I bear the ash - en cross up - on my brow:
 2 The cross of sor - row, yet of tri - umph bold
 3 An - oth - er cross was placed up - on my brow,

The sign of sor - row, ev - i - dence of how,
 Now made of ash - es, soon a crown of gold.
 One giv'n to me at my bap - tis - mal vow

O Christ, You won sal - va - tion for my soul.
 I wear it with sin - cere re - pen - tant sigh.
 When made the Fa - ther's child e - ter - nal - ly.

The ag - o - ny, the nails, the pain for me
 Made right with God the heav'n - ly Fa - ther, now
 Your cross be - came my cross up - on that day

You suf - fered there up - on the curs - ed tree
 I bold - ly stand with ash up - on my brow
 When all my man - y sins were washed a - way,
 That I might be from sin's dis - ease made whole.
 And sing my praise to You, O Lord Most High!
 And I was cleansed, made guilt - less, pure, and free.

Refrain

How can I show my fer - vent love is true?
 I'll wear the cross up - on my brow for You.

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Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the

power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

366 Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God (Psalm 51:10-12)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

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SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, You call us to turn from sin, turn to You, and live. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is, confess it to You, and then receive the forgiveness of our sins accomplished by our Lord Jesus on the cross; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Joel 2:12–19*

P The Old Testament Reading for Ash Wednesday is from Joel, the second chapter.

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

¹⁴ 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?

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

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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?'

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

¹⁹ 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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

P The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, the fifth and sixth chapters.

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

¹ Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² 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. ³ We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷ by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse for Lent

C 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

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. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so 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. ⁶ 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." . . .

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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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.

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

SERIES HYMN “Break Your Hearts”

words by Lisa Clark, music by Jonathon Kohrs

(2p- students will lead the congregation in singing the hymn)**(7p - will be sung as a Choral Anthem - CHOIR ONLY)**

1 Break your hearts with mourn-ing And your pride in two,
 2 See your Sav - ior dy - ing, Hung up - on the tree.
 3 Gath - er all in num - ber From both far and near;



Ash and grief a - dorn-ing Your re - pen-tance true.
 It is vain de - ny - ing What is plain to see:
 E - ven those in slum - ber Wait for trum-pets clear.



With your tears and fast - ing, From your God dis - cern
 While His heart is break - ing, Still your God will earn
 When the Lord grants bless - ing, Bro - ken hearts will learn



His ways ev - er - last - ing: To your Lord re - turn.
 Free - dom in the mak - ing. To your Lord re - turn.
 Joy be - yond ex - press - ing; To your Lord re - turn.

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SERMON*Stand***Apostles' Creed**

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

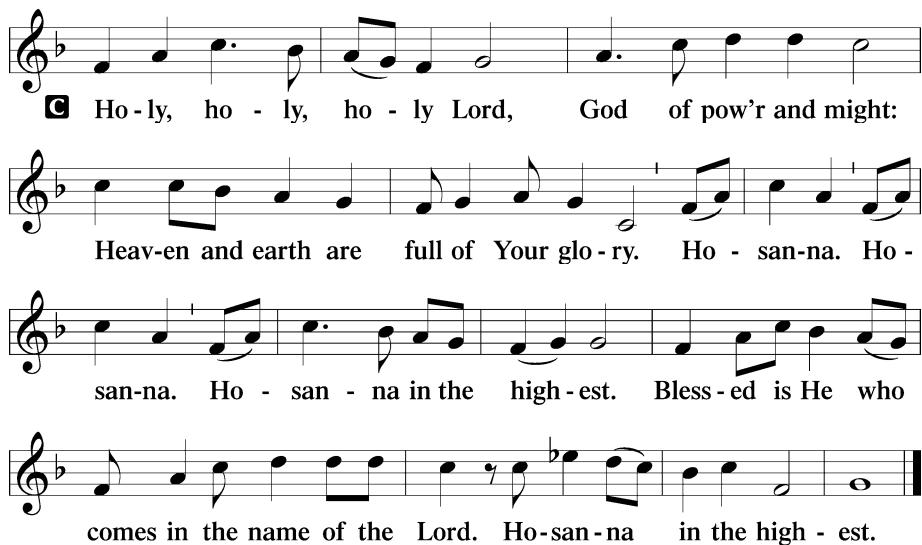
PREFACE

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.**

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, 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



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

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."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 C Amen.

Agnus Dei

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

Sit

DISTRIBUTION and Offering - Please refer to the inside of the back cover of the bulletin for prayers before and after taking communion and for the policy regarding taking communion. An offering plate will be available as you go to communion.

197 Lent Canon

Canon

①

God so loved the

②

world that He gave His on - ly Son, _____ that who -

ev - er be - lieves in Him, should not per - ish,

should not per - ish but have ev - er - last - - ing

life, _____ but have ev - er - last - - ing life.

Last time

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(2p) 7/8th grade chime students play: Savior, When in Dust to Thee
(7p) flute, clarinet, organ play: Savior, When in Dust to Thee arr. by Powell

419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

A musical score for a four-part choir. The top line is soprano, the second line alto, the third line tenor, and the bottom line bass. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: "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 -". The bass line includes a sharp sign on the eighth note of the third measure.

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 - insult - 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!

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Stand

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.

Forgiving God, we thank You for providing Christ's body and blood as nourishment today and throughout our Lenten journey. As we travel through these forty days, guide us to greater depth and breadth in following Jesus, that as the Body of Christ our witness to the love of God may permeate the world; 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 bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

201 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

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 - rase;
 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!

Text and tune: Public domain

(7p) Please be seated and wait to be dismissed by an usher.

If you have children or grandchildren, please pick up a Lent calendar (one per family).

It provides a short devotion for children for each day starting Ash Wednesday and ending Holy Saturday (the day before Easter). Families in Our Savior Lutheran School should have already received one.

Some of the hymns and liturgy used in this service are from the children's hymnal, *One and All Rejoice* that we are currently using in our school.

Acknowledgments

Ash Wednesday and Divine Service, Setting One from *Lutheran Service Book*

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