

Ash Wednesday
Divine Service Setting Four
March 5, 2025



Ecclesiastes 1:1

**The words of the Preacher, the
son of David, king in Jerusalem.**



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.

Stand

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.

Litany for Ash Wednesday

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.**

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

Introit

Psalms 51:1–3, 10–12; 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** 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.**
- 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.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:1–11

¹The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

²Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

³What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils under the sun?

⁴A generation goes, and a generation comes,
but the earth remains forever.

⁵The sun rises, and the sun goes down,
and hastens to the place where it rises.

⁶The wind blows to the south
and goes around to the north;
around and around goes the wind,
and on its circuits the wind returns.

⁷All streams run to the sea,
but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow,
there they flow again.

⁸All things are full of weariness;
a man cannot utter it;
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,
nor the ear filled with hearing.

⁹What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done,
and there is nothing new under the sun.

¹⁰Is there a thing of which it is said,
“See, this is new”?

It has been already
in the ages before us.

¹¹There is no remembrance of former things,
nor will there be any remembrance
of later things yet to be
among those who come after.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

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.

¹Working 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

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.**

Sit

730 What Is the World to Me

LSB 730



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure
 2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y
 3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers
 4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
 Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.
 Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.
 My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;
 But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,
 I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:
 My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
 My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!
 My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
 Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Sermon: Vanity of Vanities

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offertory

LSB 159



What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e - fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my

vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

In this congregation, we recognize the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Because those who receive unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith of this altar, those who hold a confession differing from that of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are asked to speak with the pastor before communing.

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

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.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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

LSB 208

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;

Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

LSB 420

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a
 3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
 4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur - round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with
 death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
 cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,
 all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
 shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.
 To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
 O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
 Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
 All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou
 death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
 soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
 God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
 might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
 That from pain I might be free;
 Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee: Thence I gain security;
 Comfortless Thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,
 Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;
 Thou didst choose to be tormented
 That my doom should be prevented.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
 For Thy sorrows deep and sore, For Thine anguish in the Garden,
 I will thank Thee evermore, Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
 For Thy bleeding and Thy dying, For that last triumphant cry,
 And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

LSB 610



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
 5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
 Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
 In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
 Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'n's a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

Sit

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB 430



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some-times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
Who at my need His life did spend!
And for His death They thirst and cry.
Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

- 5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suffer'ing goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

Those who would like may stop in the Narthex after service for the Imposition of Ashes.

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