

# ***Ash Wednesday***



**The Lutheran Church of the Savior**

*Ash Wednesday Worship – February 17, 2021*

# Ash Wednesday Worship

## 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.

## Litany for Ash Wednesday

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>P</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> O Christ,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> O Christ,   | <b>C</b> hear us.             |
| <b>P</b> God the Father in heaven,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> God the Son, Redeemer of the world,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> God the Holy Spirit,  | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> Be gracious to us.  | <b>C</b> Spare us, good Lord. |
| <b>P</b> Be gracious to us.  | <b>C</b> Help us, good Lord.  |
| <b>P</b> 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: |                               |
| <b>C</b> 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. Amen.**



## Just as I Am, without One Plea

LSB 570 sts. 1-4



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my  
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a  
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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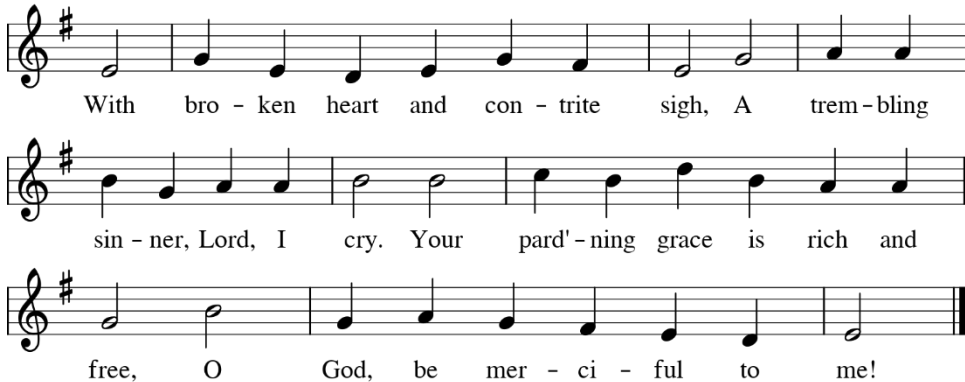
## Psalm of Confession

Psalm 51:1-12

- P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- C** **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**
- P** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- C** **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.**

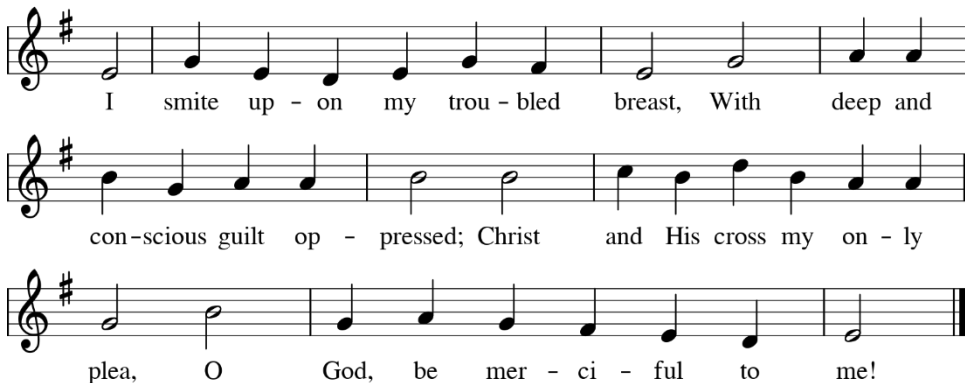
*Sung to the tune of "Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear" – LSB 908*

*Lyrics by Arden W. Mead, Creative Communications for the Parish, © 1994*



With bro - ken heart and con - trite sigh, A trem - bling  
sin - ner, Lord, I cry. Your pard' - ning grace is rich and  
free, O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

- 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.**



I smite up - on my trou - bled breast, With deep and  
con - scious guilt op - pressed; Christ and His cross my on - ly  
plea, O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

- P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
**C** **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**  
**P** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.  
**C** **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**  
**P** Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
**C** **Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Far off I stand with tear - ful eyes, Nor dare up -  
 lift them to the skys, But all my an - guish, Lord, You  
 see - O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

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

## Confession and Absolution

- 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** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## Just as I Am, without One Plea

*LSB 570 sts. 5-6*

- 5 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.

6 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.

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### Collect for Ash Wednesday

**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.**

### 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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

<sup>20</sup>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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Choir Anthem

### Speak to Me in Ashes

*Crane & Nolan*

*Speak to me in ashes. Speak to me in tears. Whisper to the silence in my soul.  
Lord, I wait in stillness, ready now to hear. Speak to me in ashes and in tears.*

*Speak to me in silence. Speak to me your peace. Touch my heart and still my troubled mind.  
Words of calm assurance, all my fears release. Speak to me in ashes. Give me peace.*

*Lord, speak to me. My heart is open to receive your grace.  
Lord, speak to me. Here in these shadows, let me feel your sure embrace.*

*Speak to me with mercy. Speak to me in love. By your Word, my spirit is reborn.  
Echoes of compassion, sounding from above. Speak to me with mercy and in love.  
Speak to me in mercy and in love.*

## 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.**

<sup>1</sup>[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.

<sup>2</sup>"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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>[Jesus said:] “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.

<sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures <sup>19</sup>on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>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.

### Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419



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 -



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 - sult - 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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**Sermon**

"The Soul Laid Bare"

*Psalms 32 & 51*

**Collect**

**P** O God, our merciful Father, by Your Holy Law do You work in us the true knowledge of our sin, that our heart may be penitent, and our soul humble before You. Blot out our iniquities with the blood of Your Son, cleanse our souls from the dark spots with which we have soiled them, and comfort us with the assurance of Your grace. Build Your Church with us and our children, that Your name may be glorified by many generations; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G Amen.**

## 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.**

## Benediction

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **Amen.**

## Create in Me

LSB 956

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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## **Acknowledgments**

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“Speak To Me In Ashes”, Words by Karen Crane, Music by Douglas Nolan

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