

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

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.

Kneel/Stand

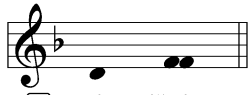
Silence for reflection.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy.



L O Christ,



C have mer - cy.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy.



L O Christ,



C hear us.



L God the Fa - ther in heaven,



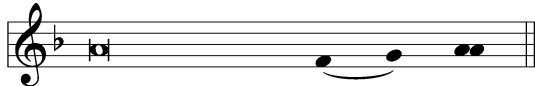
C have mer - cy.



L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,



C have mer - cy.



L God the Holy Spir - it,



C have mer - cy.



L Be gra - cious to us.



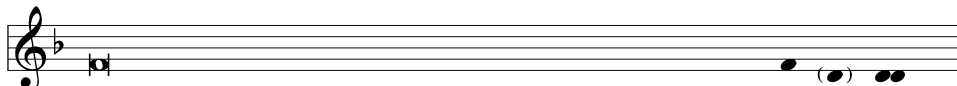
C Spare us, good Lord.



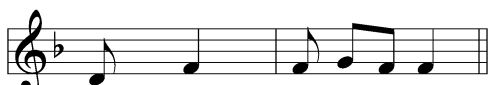
L Be gra - cious to us.



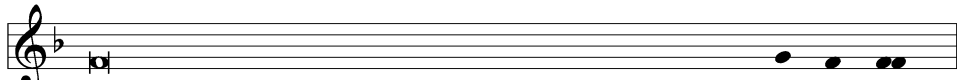
C Help us, good Lord.



L From all sin, from all error, from all e - vil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and e - vil death;
From pestilence and famine;
from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from re - bel - lion;
From lightning and tempest;
from all calamity by fire and water; and from ever - last - ing death:



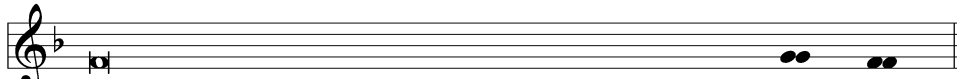
C Good Lord, de - liv - er us.



L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy na - tiv - i - ty;
 By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
 by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your
 cross and passion; by Your precious death and bur - i - al;
 By Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
 and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Com - fort - er:



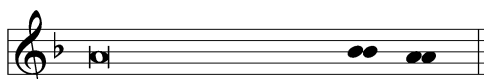
C Help us, good Lord.



L In all time of our tribulation; in all time
 of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judg - ment:



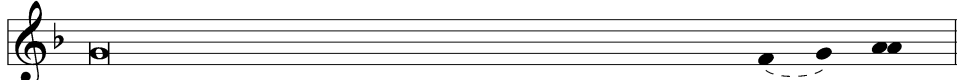
C Help us, good Lord.



L We poor sinners im - plore You



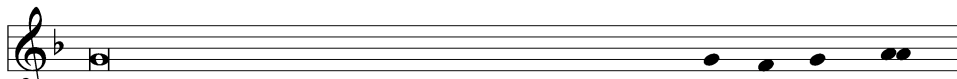
C to hear us, O Lord.



L To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church;
 to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your
 Church in the true knowledge and understanding
 of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy liv - ing;
 To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense;
 to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are de - ceived;
 To beat down Satan under our feet;
 to send faithful laborers into Your harvest;
 and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spir - it:



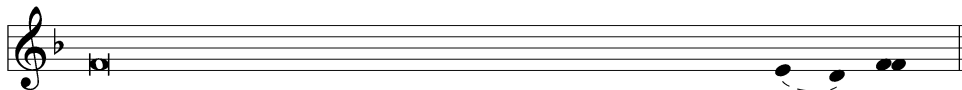
C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



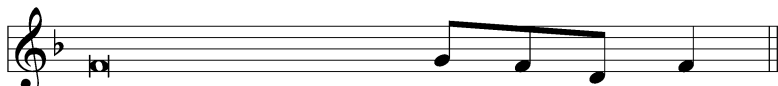
L To raise those who fall and to strengthen those
 who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the dis - tressed:



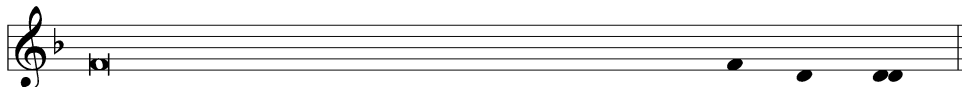
C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



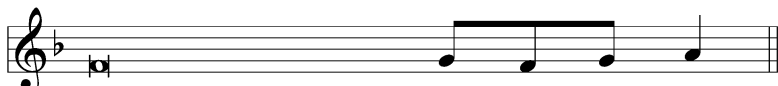
L To give to all peoples concord and peace;
to preserve our land from discord and strife;
to give our country Your protection in every time of need;
To direct and defend our president/queen/king and all in
authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our peo - ple;
To watch over and help all who are in danger,
necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who trav - el;
To grant all women with child, and all mothers
with infant children, increasing happiness in
their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and pro-vide for them;
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and
young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:



C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



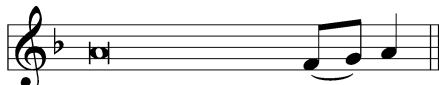
L To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers
and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our
use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:



C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,



C we implore You to hear us.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C have mer - cy.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C have mer - cy.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C grant us Your peace.



L O Christ,



C hear us.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy.



L O Christ,



C have mer - cy.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy. A - men.

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Confessional Address

P Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God’s wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you.” It is as if He said, “I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat.”

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Again, it is as if He said, “I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink.”

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C Amen.

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Confession of Sins

LSB 291

C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God’s?

C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

Absolution

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P 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.

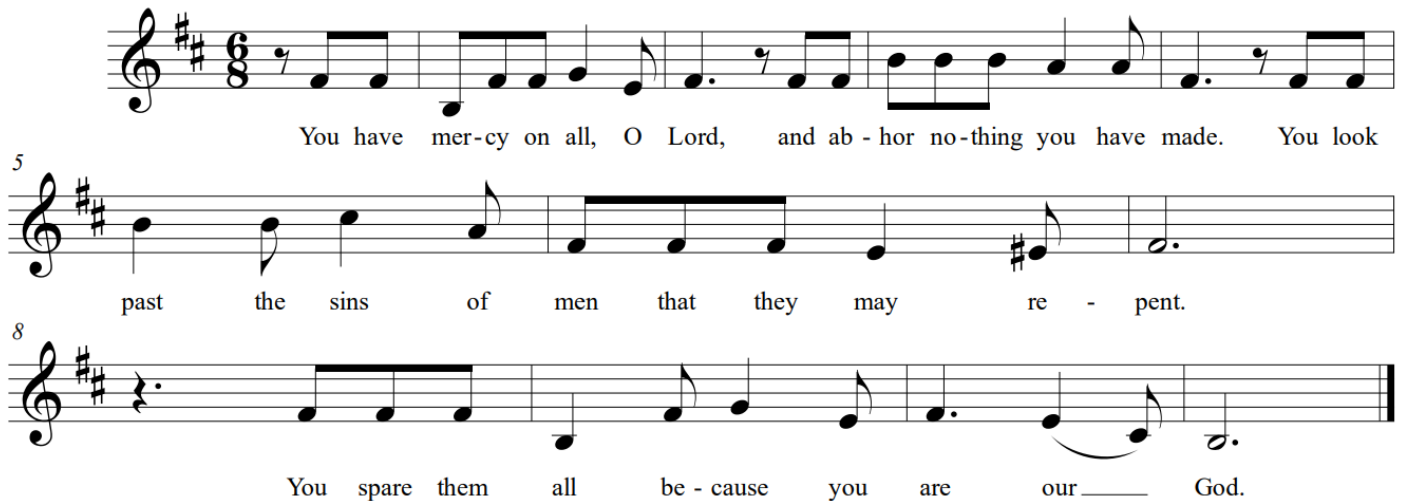
Blessing

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ☩ peace.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit: Psalm 57, Antiphon from Wisdom of Solomon 11



You have mer-cy on all, O Lord, and ab-hor no-thing you have made. You look
5 past the sins of men that they may re-pent.
8 You spare them all be-cause you are our God.

Psalm 57



¹Be merciful to me, | O God,*
be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes | refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take | refuge,*
till the storms of destruction | pass by.
²I cry out to | God Most High,*
to God who fulfills his pur- | pose for me. **Refrain**

³He will send from heaven and | save me;*
he will put to shame him who tramples | on me.
God will send out his | steadfast love*
and his | faithfulness!

⁴My soul is in the | midst of lions;*
I lie down amid | fiery beasts—
the children of man, whose teeth are spears and | arrows,*
whose tongues are | sharp swords.

⁵Be exalted, O God, above the | heavens!*
Let your glory be over | all the earth! **Refrain**

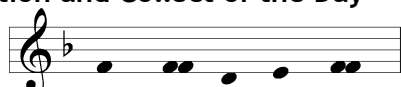
⁶They set a net | for my steps;*
my soul was | bowed down.
They dug a pit | in my way,*
but they have fallen into it | themselves.

⁷My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is | steadfast!*
I will sing and make | melody!

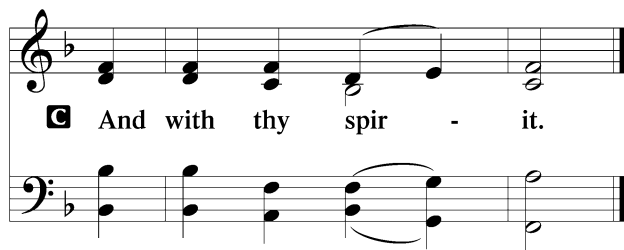
⁸Awake, my glory! Awake, O | harp and lyre!*
I will a- | wake the dawn! **Refrain**

⁹I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the | peoples;*
 I will sing praises to you among the | nations.
¹⁰For your steadfast love is great to the | heavens,*
 your faithfulness | to the clouds.
¹¹Be exalted, O God, above the | heavens!*
 Let your glory be over | all the earth!
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
 and to the Holy | Spirit;
 as it was in the be- | ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen. Refrain**

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.

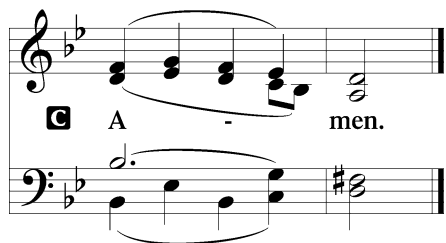


C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P 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 A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
 “return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and 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.
¹⁴Who 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?
¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather 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.
¹⁷Between 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?'"
¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.
¹⁹The 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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Tract

Psalm 103:10; 79:8a, 9a

**He does not deal with us according | to our sins,*
nor repay us according to our in- | iquities.
Do not remember against us our former in- | iquities;*
let your compassion come speedily to | meet us.
Help us, O God of our sal- | vation,*
for the glory | of your name.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C Glo - ry be to Thee, 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.



Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

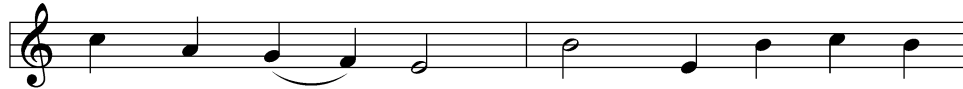
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee



1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and
 2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out
 3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in
 4 And though it tar - ry through the night And till the
 5 Though great our sins, yet great - er still Is God's a -



trib - u - la - tion; Bend down Thy gra - cious
 my trans - gres - sion; The best and ho - liest
 mine own mer - it; It rests up - on His
 morn - ing wak - en, My heart shall nev - er
 bun - dant fa - vor; His hand of mer - cy



ear to me, Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion.
 deeds must fail To break sin's dread op - pres - sion.
 faith - ful Word To them of con - trite spir - it
 doubt His might Nor count it - self for - sak - en.
 nev - er will A - ban - don us, nor wa - ver.



If Thou re - mem - b'rest ev - 'ry sin, Who then could heav - en
 Be - fore Thee none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear Thy
 That He is mer - ci - ful and just; This is my com - fort
 O Is - rael, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spir - it
 Our shep - herd good and true is He, Who will at last His



ev - er win Or stand be - fore Thy pres - ence?
 strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
 and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.
 and the Word, Now wait for His ap - pear - ing.
 Is - rael free From all their sin and sor - row.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

☐ 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.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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