→ Ash Wednesday → March 5, 2025

Invocation

- In the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

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.

Stand

Silence for reflection.

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.
- **G** Help us, good Lord.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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,
- 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.

Concluding Collect

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

Imposition of Ashes

The pastor and assistants receive ashes first, followed by the congregation. Please come forward forming two lines on either side of the font to receive the ashes. As they are placed upon your forehead the pastor says:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence.

The hymn following hymn is sung during the imposition of ashes.

Hymn: "Savior, When in Dust to Thee"

LSB 419

- 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!

Stand

Exhortation LSB 203

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Absolution LSB 203

- 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 Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12; antiphon: v. 17

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

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;* according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,* and cleanse me | from my sin!

For I know my trans- | gressions,* and my sin is ever be- | fore me.

Create in me a clean heart, | O God,* and renew a right spirit with- | in me.

Cast me not away from your | presence,* and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.

Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,* and uphold me with a willing | spirit.

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.

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

Kyrie LSB 204

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

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

2 Kings 5:1–14

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ²Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." ⁵And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothes. ⁶And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" 14So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hebrews 12:2

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis-|
ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle Acts 3:1–10

¹Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Verse Joel 2:13b

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and | merciful, * slow to anger, and abounding in | steadfast love.

Holy Gospel Matthew 8:1–17

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. ²And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." ³And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And

immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

⁵When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, 6"Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹²while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

¹⁴And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. ¹⁶That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: "Come unto Me, Ye Weary"

LSB 684

1 "Come unto Me, ye weary, And I will give you rest." O blessèd voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed! It tells of benediction,
Of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that hath no ending,
Of love that cannot cease.

- "Come unto Me, ye wand'rers,
 And I will give you light."
 O loving voice of Jesus,
 Which comes to cheer the night!
 Our hearts were filled with sadness,
 And we had lost our way;
 But Thou hast brought us gladness
 And songs at break of day.
- 3 "Come unto Me, ye fainting,
 And I will give you life."
 O cheering voice of Jesus,
 Which comes to aid our strife!
 The foe is stern and eager,
 The fight is fierce and long;
 But Thou hast made us mighty
 And stronger than the strong.
- 4 "And whosoever cometh,
 I will not cast him out."
 O patient love of Jesus,
 Which drives away our doubt,
 Which, though we be unworthy
 Of love so great and free,
 Invites us very sinners
 To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Sermon: "The Hand of the Lord Who Heals The Sick" Matthew 8:1–17

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 + of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Merciful God, in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, cleanse and renew our hearts from the stain of sin. Bring us to genuine repentance, pardon all our sins and renew our faith, that we may have a clear conscience. Grant us the aid of Your Holy Spirit to manifest the holiness of life which befits our calling through Holy Baptism. By faith, let us show forth the good works of Christ who called us from darkness into His marvelous light. Lord, in Your mercy,

- **C** hear our prayer.
- P Save and defend Your Church from the enemies of Your Word. Give us faithful pastors and teachers who will gather Your sheep with Your voice, feed them Your blessed Sacrament and lead us into Your everlasting presence. Teach us the love of Your name and the desire for what is good and right, that we would renounce all false religion and love You with our whole heart, mind, body and strength. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Heavenly Father, You blot out transgressions and wash away iniquity. Sustain the families of Your Church, that husbands, wives and children would be cleansed from their sins and live together in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Guard those in authority over us, especially our president and Congress, that our laws would be just and justly applied, for the punishment of the evildoer and for the pursuit of virtue. Where our laws are unjust or contrary to Your Word, in Your mercy make right the wrong, that we may act in good conscience as citizens of this land. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

- P Comfort those in distress. Grant healing to the sick, peace to the troubled and Your presence to the dying. Bring us through trouble and trial by Your grace, that we may sing anew Your wondrous love and mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Remember in mercy all who come today to receive the Savior's body and blood, that this Sacrament may turn our hearts in repentance, strengthen our faith, and embolden us to love and serve our neighbor. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Bless us, heavenly Father, on this holy day of repentance. As we enter the season of Lent, let us hold fast to Your Word. Teach us to die to self and serve You faithfully throughout this mortal life, until at last You bring us with the blessed saints into Your presence forevermore; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Stand

Offertory

- \blacksquare = pulpit (Epistle) side \blacksquare = lectern (Gospel) side
 - P 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.
 - **L** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
 - **R** and uphold me with a willing spirit.
 - **L** Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
 - **R** and sinners will return to You.
 - **L** Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,

- **R** and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness.
- P O Lord, open my lips,
- and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- **L** For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
- **R** You will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- **L** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
- **R** a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

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.
- 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 LSB 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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

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

→ 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 + 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 LSB 210

1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" LSB 843

- 1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
 You taught us, Lord, to pray;
 But You alone can grant us grace
 To live the words we say.
- How can Your pardon reach and bless
 The unforgiving heart
 That broods on wrongs and will not let
 Old bitterness depart?
- In blazing light Your cross reveals
 The truth we dimly knew:
 What trivial debts are owed to us,
 How great our debt to You!
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
 And bid resentment cease;
 Then, bound to all in bonds of love,
 Our lives will spread Your peace.

Distribution Hymn: "When in the Hour of Deepest Need" LSB 615

When in the hour of deepest need We know not where to look for aid;

- When days and nights of anxious thought No help or counsel yet have brought,
- Then is our comfort this alone
 That we may meet before Your throne;
 To You, O faithful God, we cry
 For rescue in our misery.
- For You have promised, Lord, to heed Your children's cries in time of need Through Him whose name alone is great, Our Savior and our advocate.
- And so we come, O God, today
 And all our woes before You lay;
 For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,
 Perplexed by fears on ev'ry hand.
- O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face; Absolve us through Your boundless grace. Be with us in our anguish still; Free us at last from ev'ry ill.
- 6 So we with all our hearts each day
 To You our glad thanksgiving pay,
 Then walk obedient to Your Word,
 And now and ever praise You, Lord.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis LSB 211

Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,

Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus LSB 212

- **A** Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- 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.

Hymn to Depart: "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" LSB 435

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall; Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

- Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within; From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin, Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
- Come in sorrow and contrition,
 Wounded, impotent, and blind;
 Here the guilty, free remission,
 Here the troubled, peace may find.
 Health this fountain will restore;
 They that drink shall thirst no more.
- They that drink shall live forever;
 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
 God is faithful; God will never
 Break His covenant of blood,
 Signed when our Redeemer died,
 Sealed when He was glorified.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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