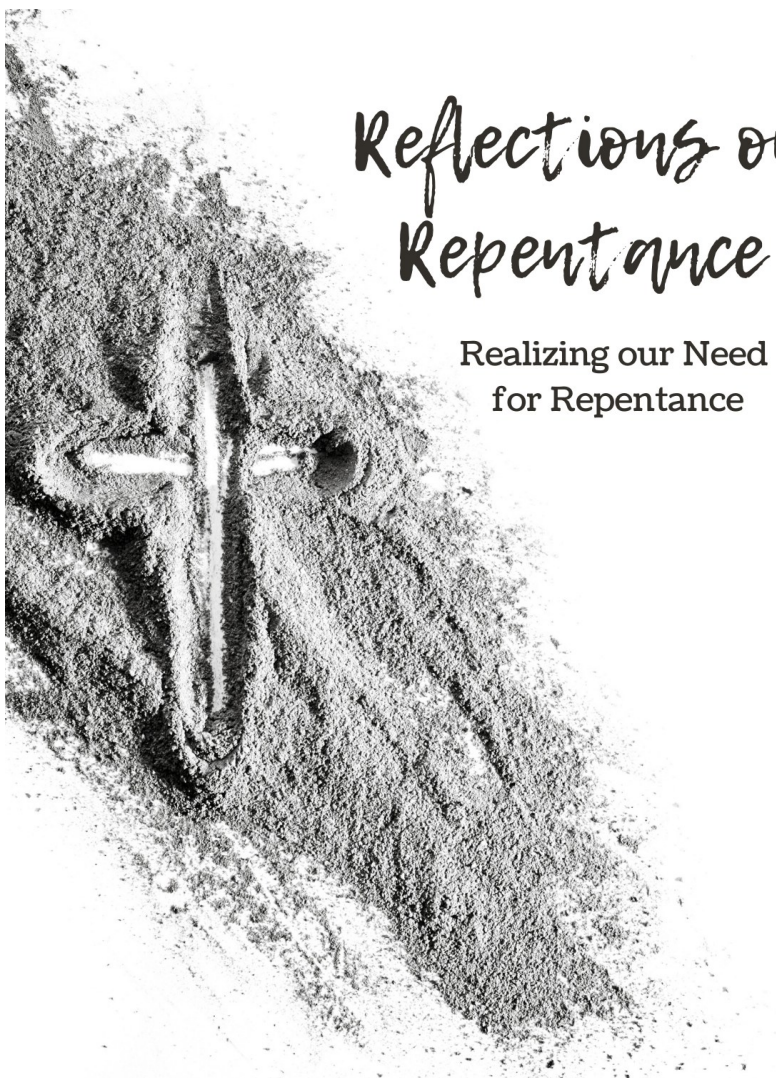


March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday



# Reflections on Repentance

Realizing our Need  
for Repentance



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## **Ash Wednesday**

*Reflections on Repentance:  
Realizing Our Need for Repentance*

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, our sins brought your punishment. Our transgressions made your pierced hands necessary. Bless us tonight and throughout the season of Lent as we sincerely repent of our sinful lives and seek to serve you. Amen.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** This is the first day in the season of Lent, receiving its name from the ancient Christian tradition of receiving ashes to signify inner repentance. This practice finds its roots in the Old Testament, where people would "put on sackcloth and ashes" as a sign of sorrow and mourning. In typical Ash Wednesday observance, Christians are called to the altar during the worship service, and the pastor marks their forehead or hand with ashes in the sign of a cross. As he does this, he quotes Genesis 3:19, saying, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return."

The practice of imposing ashes on this day is a visible sign of the true purpose for Ash Wednesday: repentance. As we begin the Lenten journey in observing Jesus' suffering and death, we do so knowing that it was our sins he bore. To prepare ourselves to see our Savior shed his blood, we spend time, especially today, in godly sorrow over our sins and all we have done wrong. We remember that the wages of our sin is death, and that one day we will return to the dust from which our race was made. In such sorrow and repentance, we then are properly prepared to see how Jesus has paid for our sins by giving his life on the cross.

**A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION:** Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

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# Order of Worship



## **Reading**

*Psalms 51*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.

Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

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

In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.

Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## **Invocation**

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the — Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## GATHERING RITE FOR LENT

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know perfect peace with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to hear him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to take the punishment of death that we deserve. God made Jesus, “who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.” (*2 Corinthians 5:21*)

M: During the 40 days of Lent, “we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.” (*Hebrews 12:2*) The time of Lent reminds us that “to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.” (*Philippians 3:10*) As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle against sin.

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

**C: I confess to you and to my brothers and sisters that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone.**

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

**C: we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault. In thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We have placed our wants before your will.

We have gratified the desires of our sinful nature.

We have merited your punishment now and forever.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.  
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people,  
our anger when our selfish aims are denied, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,  
our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us.

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C: Forgive us, Lord.**

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

**C: Forgive us, Lord.**

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

**C: Forgive us, Lord.**

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

*Be seated.*

### **(4 pm) Jubilate Choir Anthem**

### *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Arr. by D. Forrest

Create in me a clean heart, O God. And renew a right spirit in me.

Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit.

### **(6:30 pm) Choir Anthem**

### *Create in Me*

Arr. by Terre Johnson

Create in me a clean heart, O God. And renew a right spirit in me.

Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit.

## Imposition of Ashes

*Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward a the direction of the ushers. Parents may bring their children forward at their discretion. If you would like to receive the ashes on the back of your hand instead of your forehead, please hold out your hand. Once you receive the ashes please return to your seat.*

*The pastor or attendant applies the ashes to the forehead or hand in the form of a small cross, saying,*

**M:** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After all who desire have received ashes, the minister says:*

**M:** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

**C:** **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**M:** By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

**C:** **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

## Absolution

**M:** The almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him only through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 12:1-13

*The Lord sends the prophet Nathan to call King David to repentance. Nathan lowers David's defenses by telling the king a story about an immoral rich man.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. <sup>2</sup>The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, <sup>3</sup>but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

<sup>4</sup>"Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

<sup>5</sup>David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! <sup>6</sup>He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup>I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. <sup>9</sup>Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup>Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

<sup>11</sup>“This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. <sup>12</sup>You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’ ”

<sup>13</sup>Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

*To lower the defenses of those who were self-righteous, Jesus tells a parable about what makes us righteous in God’s eyes—trusting in God’s great mercy.*

<sup>9</sup>To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

<sup>13</sup>“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

<sup>14</sup>“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

# Hymn of the Day: Jesus Sinners Does Receive

CW 654



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; oh, may all this  
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich  
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray are not by the  
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to you with a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 Lord for - sak - en; wea - ry souls who lost their way  
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



and from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope for  
 here their ills have per - fect heal - ing who with hum - ble  
 are by Christ, the Shep - herd, tak - en in his arms that  
 grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
 hearts be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know, were as scarlet my transgression,  
 it shall be as white as snow by your blood and bitter passion,  
 for these words I do believe: Jesus sinners does receive.
- 6 Now my conscience is at peace, from the law I stand acquitted.  
 Christ has purchased my release and my ev'ry sin remitted.  
 Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.
- 7 Jesus sinners does receive, even I have been forgiven.  
 And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.  
 Dying, still to him I cleave: Jesus sinners does receive.



*For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.*

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

## *“Realizing Our Need for Repentance”*

### Offering



Our members give offerings to support God’s work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren’t expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



**(4:00 pm) Jr. Bells Offertory**

**O Sacred Head Now Wounded**  
by Linda Scholes

Please stand.

### **Hymn: Luther’s Evening Prayer** CW 782 sts. 1b–2



1 I thank you, heav’n-ly Fa - ther, thro’ Je - sus, your dear Son,  
2 I trust my soul and bod - y in - to your lov - ing hands.



that gra - cious - ly you kept me while dai - ly tasks were done.  
All things that I en - coun - ter I leave to your good plans.



I pray that you for - give me for all my sins and wrongs,  
Send me your ho - ly an - gel to rout the e - vil one



and in your love con - tin - ue to keep me all night long.  
and crush his dread - ful pow - ers. A - men. Your will be done.

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.*

## Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my  $\dagger$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\dagger$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

## O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Be seated.

## Communion Distribution

*For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.*

*Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.*

## Hymn: Baptismal Waters Cover Me

CW 657



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me as I ap -  
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, his bod - y  
3 Lord, may your wound - ed hand im - part your heal - ing  
4 From your own mouth comes forth a word; your shep - herd  
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; my Fa - ther's mer - cy  
bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore him  
to my bro - ken heart; your love a - lone can  
speaks, but you are heard; through him your hand now  
hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, for griev - ous sins of thought and deed.  
all my sin, my dark - est se - crets from with - in.  
form in me a heart that serves you joy - ful - ly.  
stretch - es out, for - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.  
strong em - brace, with joy I praise him for his grace.

After the distribution please stand at the pastor's direction.

## Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: His mercy endures forever.

*Psalm 118:1*

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

## Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

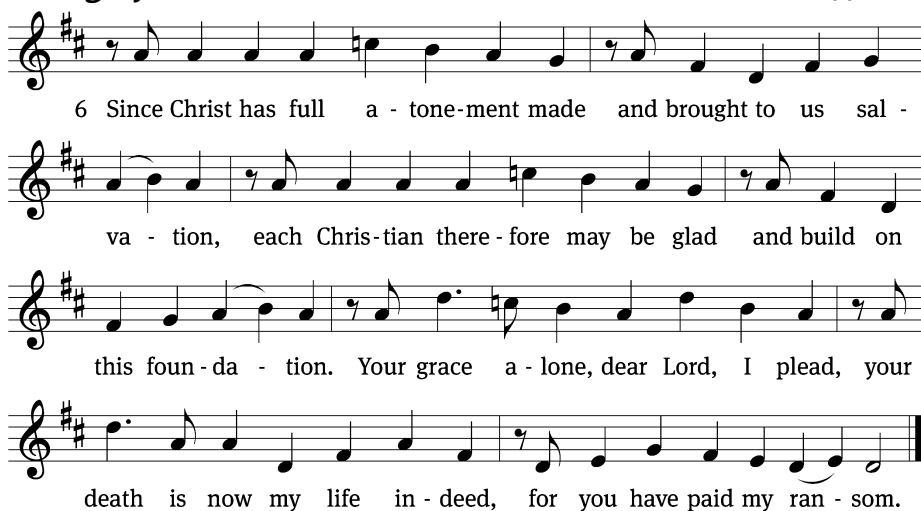
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Closing Hymn: Salvation unto Us Has Come

CW 558 st. 6



6 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made and brought to us sal -  
va - tion, each Chris-tian there - fore may be glad and build on  
this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear Lord, I plead, your  
death is now my life in - deed, for you have paid my ran - som.

## Silent Prayer and Dismissal

### Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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### SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Luke Dorn

Choir Director: Luke Dorn

Bells Director: Jessie Wolfe