



REFLECTIONS on REPENTANCE

March 2, 2025

Ash Wednesday

Welcome, guests! We're delighted that you could join us. If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. This folder contains all the information about our services and the congregational responses are indicated by indented and bolded letters. Please also take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church's entrance; this is used by the pastor and elder only. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

ORDER OF SERVICE: ASH WEDNESDAY: IMPOSITION OF ASHES, P. 146 (CWOS)

****Please Remain Seated****

Farwell to the Alleluias

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, where we commence our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, therefore, the Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word *alleluia*, which means "praise the Lord." For a time, we bid farewell to *alleluia*. We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The *alleluias* will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord.

Opening Hymn

To the Tune of Hymn 122

Alleluia, Song of Triumph

**Alleluia, song of triumph, sound of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;
Saints adorned in robes of glory join the great angelic cry.**

**Alleluia we are singing, voicing hymns in pure accord,
With Christ's holy Church united, justified, redeemed, restored,
And with all his faithful people raise our songs to praise the Lord.**

**Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;
Alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forego.
For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.**

**May our hymns be filled with longing—hear us, Holy Trinity—
As we look to your blest Easter, here, and then eternally,
When we shall once more be singing alleluia joyfully!**

****Silence for Meditation****

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, 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 turn to 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 die the death 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.

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. 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.

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. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

OPENING PSALM:

PSALM 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

CONFESSION OF SINS

Most holy and merciful Father,

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.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

We confess to you, O Lord.

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

Forgive us, O Lord.

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

Forgive us, O Lord.

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

Forgive us, O Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward. Baptized children may come forward at their parents' discretion.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

As the ashes are applied to the forehead of each person:

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

After you have received your ashes please remain standing:

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

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

ABSOLUTION

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 through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

****Please be Seated****

PASSION READING:

LESSON ONE

SERMON HYMN:

#305

FROM DEPTHS OF WOE, LORD GOD, I CRY



1 From depths of woe I cry to you; Lord, hear me,
2 Your love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out
3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in
4 My soul is wait - ing for the Lord As one who



I im - plore you. Bend down your gra - cious ear to me;
my trans - gres - sion. The best and ho - liest deeds must fail
my own mer - it; It rests up - on his faith - ful Word
longs for morn - ing; No watch - er waits with great - er hope



My prayer let come be - fore you. If you kept
To break sin's dread op - pres - sion. Be - fore you
To them of con - trite spir - it. That he is
Than I for his re - turn - ing. I hope as



rec - ord of my sin And held a - gainst me
none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear your
mer - ci - ful and just— This is my com - fort
Is - rael in the Lord; He sends re - demp - tion



what I've been, How could I stand be - fore you?
strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.
through his Word. We praise him for his mer - cy.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 4.
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Tune: AUS TIEFER NOT (87 87 887) Martin Luther, 1483–1546, alt.

SERMON TEXT

PSALM 51

SERMON:

REALIZING OUR NEED FOR REPENTANCE

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

Please Stand

RESPONSORY PRAYER

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of Truth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of Your eye.

Hide us under the shadow of your wings, Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, hear my Prayer:

And let my cry come to you.

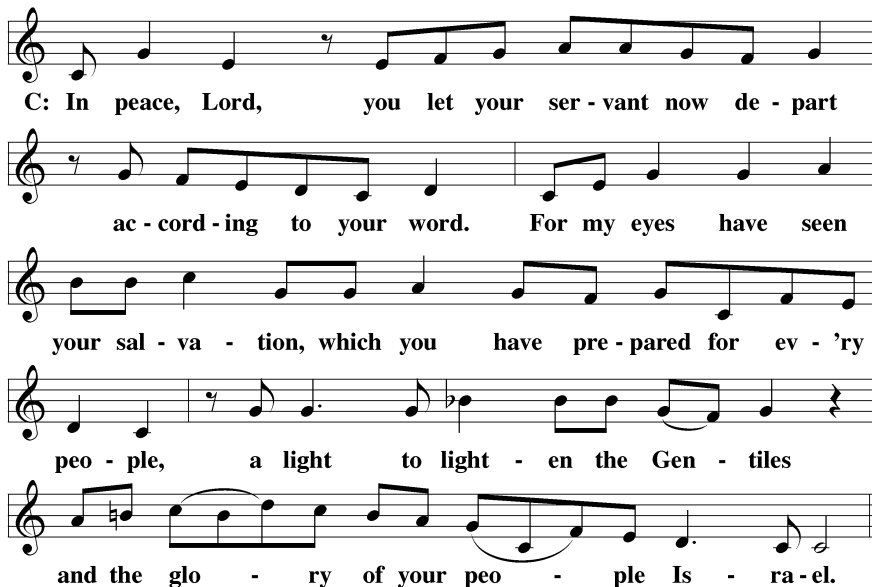
LORD’S PRAYER

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.

Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

SONG OF SIMEON

NUNC DIMITTIS



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part
ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen
your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry
peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God(†), and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



C: A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

#302

LORD, TO YOU I MAKE CONFESSION



1 Lord, to you I make con - fes - sion: I have
2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther,
3 For your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n him -
4 Lord, on you I cast my bur - den— Sink it



sinned and gone a - stray; I have mul - ti - plied
I will seek your face. Though your child I dare
self to res - cue me, Died to save me and
in the depths be - low! Let me know your gra -



trans - gres - sion, Cho - sen for my - self my way.
not call me, Yet re - ceive me to your grace.
re - store me, Rec - on - ciled and set me free.
cious par - don; Wash me, make me white as snow.



Led by you to see my er - rors,
Do not for my sins for - sake me;
Je - sus' cross a - lone can van - quish
Let your Spir - it leave me nev - er;



Lord, I trem - ble at your ter - rors.
Do not let your wrath o'er - take me.
These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
Make me on - ly yours for - ev - er.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: HERR, ICH HABE MISSGEHANDELT (87 87 88) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

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