



# REFLECTIONS on REPENTANCE

**April 8, 2025**

**Sixth Midweek in Lent**

**RELYING ON GOD'S GRACE**

**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: THE OFFICE OF COMPLINE – CLOSE OF THE DAY,  
PG. 128 (ELH)**

The Lord Almighty, grant us a quiet night and peace as it ends.

**Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord:

**Who made heaven and earth.**

Restore us again, O God of our salvation.

**And put away your anger towards us.**

Come quickly and save me, O God, to deliver me.

**Come quickly to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, now and forevermore. Amen.**

*\*\*Silence for Meditation\*\**

**OPENING HYMN:**

**#402**

**MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE**



1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of  
2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my  
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a -  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold,



Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me  
faint - ing heart; My zeal in - spire! As thou hast  
round me spread, Be thou my guide. Bid dark - ness  
sul - len stream Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior,



while I pray; Take all my guilt a - way;  
died for me, Oh, may my love to thee  
turn to day, Wipe sor - row's tears a - way,  
then, in love, Fear and dis - trust re - move;



Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!  
Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!  
Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.  
Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87.

Tune: OLIVET (664 6664) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872, alt.

### CONFESSION OF SINS

In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden.

**Amen. I confess that I am by nature sinful. I am guilty of many sins. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me. For all this I am sorry. I pray for forgiveness. Have mercy on me, O God according to your unfailing love.**

Jesus says to his people, “If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven.” His death paid the for all your sins and for the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

**Yes, I believe.**

By the authority of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Refrain*

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;  
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

*Psalm tone*

*Refrain*

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,\*  
whose sins are covered.  
When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;\*  
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.  
Then I acknowledged my sin to you\*  
and did not cover up my iniquity.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"\*  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

*Refrain*

You are my hiding place;\*  
you will protect me from trouble.  
Many are the woes of the wicked,\*  
but the LORD'S unfailing love surrounds those who trust in him.  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*  
**PSALM PRAYER**

Lord, whenever we feel the crushing burden of our sin, show us again how blessed we are. You have lifted our transgressions from us. You have covered our sins with the robe of your Son's righteousness. You no longer count our misdeeds against us. For this great deliverance, we rejoice and sing your saving name. Amen.

PASSION READING:

LESSON SIX

**SERMON HYMN:**

**#128**

**NOT ALL THE BLOOD OF BEASTS**



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Is - rael's  
 2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our  
 3 In faith I place my hand On that dear  
 4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den  
 5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the



al - tars slain Could give the guilt - y con - science  
 sins a - way, A sac - ri - fice of no - bler  
 head di - vine, As pen - i - tent - ly here I  
 you did bear When hang - ing on the curs - ed  
 curse re - move; We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful



peace Or wash a - way the stain.  
 name And rich - er blood than they.  
 stand And lay on him my sin.  
 tree— I know my guilt was there!  
 voice And sing his bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
 Tune: SOUTHWELL (SM) William Daman, c. 1540–91.

**SERMON TEXT**

**PSALM 51: 8–9**

***Let me hear joy and gladness.  
 Let the bones you have crushed celebrate.  
 Hide your face from my sins.  
 Erase all my guilty deeds.***

**SERMON:**

**REMOVING OUR GUILT**

**OFFERING** – *IN 2 CORINTHIANS 9: 7, PAUL TELLS US: “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**

O God our Father, by your mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light.

**We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper.**

To your great love and protection, we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our steadfast defender; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

### **THE BLESSING**

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us.

**May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (†) the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with you into this night and forever into eternity.

**Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN

#100

## A LAMB GOES UNCOMPLAINING FORTH



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, Our guilt and  
 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The Lamb of  
 3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll bear what  
 4 From morn till eve, in all I do, I'll praise you,



e - vil bear - ing And, lad - en with the sins of earth,  
 God, our Sav - ior; Him God the Fa - ther chose to send  
 you com - mand me. My will con - forms to your de - cree;  
 Christ, my trea - sure. To sac - ri - fice my - self for you



None else the bur - den shar - ing. Goes pa - tient on,  
 To gain for us his fa - vor. "Go forth, my Son,"  
 I'll do what you have asked me." O won - drous Love,  
 Shall be my aim and plea - sure. My stream of life



grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with - out com - plaint,  
 the Fa - ther said, "And free my chil - dren from their dread  
 what have you done! The Fa - ther of - fers up his Son,  
 shall ev - er be A cur - rent flow - ing cease - less - ly,



That spot - less life to of - fer, Bears shame and stripes  
 Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and stripes  
 De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how strong  
 Your con - stant praise out - pour - ing, I'll trea - sure in



and wounds and death, An - guish and mock - er - y and says,  
 are hard to bear, But by your pas - sion they will share  
 you are to save! You make his bed with - in the grave  
 my mem - o - ry, O Lord, all you have done for me,



"Will - ing all this I suf - fer."  
 The fruit of your sal - va - tion."  
 Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.  
 Your gra - cious love a - dor - ing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: AN WASSERFLUSSEN BABYLON (87 87 887 887) Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487–1553.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Easter Lillies:** Please consider bringing a Lilly to beautify our sanctuary for Easter. We will need the flowers on Saturday of Easter weekend after 4 pm when the church is being set up.

**Holy Week:** We will celebrate with Jesus' triumphant entry on April 13, Palm Sunday. On Maundy Thursday, Pastor Emmons will be available for private confession at church; please make an appointment. That evening service will be at 5:30 pm as we leave with the stripping of the altar, followed by a service of darkness on Good Friday. As a reminder, we will leave out in silence on both days.

<b>April 13:</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Restoring our Hope</b>	<b>Philippians 2: 5 – 11</b>
<b>April 17:</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Renewed Through the Gospel</b>	<b>Psalm 51: 10 – 13</b>
<b>April 18:</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Restored by His Sacrifice</b>	<b>Psalm 51: 14 - 17</b>
<b>April 20:</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Rejoicing in Resurrection Hope</b>	<b>Psalm 51: 18 – 19</b>

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