

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



## **Ash Wednesday**

February 18, 2026

Divine Service, Setting Three – LSB 184

**Noon and 7:00\* p.m.**

\*livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

## “O LOVE, HOW DEEP, HOW BROAD, HOW HIGH”

This Ash Wednesday, we introduce our Lent sermon series, which is based on the ancient hymn “O Love, How Deep” (LSB 544). This hymn, written in the fifteenth century, contemplates the love of God in becoming man, taking on our life, dying our death, and rising again, all *for us*. But for us to understand and appreciate this love, we must first examine ourselves and our lives to see how we have failed in thought, word, and deed. While we may try to get credit for our so-called good works, we all still die with nothing to show for them. But God’s love is not like our love. Our love is self-centered and fickle. God’s love is steady, deep, and beyond all understanding (Ephesians 3:14–19). This love of God will have no end.

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**Today, for the half hour prior to and following our worship services, worshipers have the opportunity to approach the communion rail and receive ashes on their foreheads.** The ashes applied by the Pastor are from the palm branches that were used last Palm Sunday. Their use suggests in a dramatic way

God’s judgment and condemnation of sin; our frailty and total dependence on God; humiliation and repentance. The words spoken as ashes are imposed, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” were first spoken to Adam after his fall into sin. We are forcefully reminded of the words of the committal in the Burial Service, “...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” Ashes also suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleaning agent. Thus, ashes imposed in the shape of a cross symbolize both judgment and baptismal cleansing.

Even if you do not receive ashes, we encourage you to spend this time in meditation – on the lessons and hymns for this evening, or in prayer.

**Holy Communion** is being celebrated in our service. You may indicate your presence at the Lord's Supper on the fellowship booklet. *Please consult with one of our pastors before communing at Faith for the first time.*

## ✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

### ASH WEDNESDAY 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.

### LITANY

<b>P</b>	O Lord,	<b>C</b>	have mercy.
<b>P</b>	O Christ,	<b>C</b>	have mercy.
<b>P</b>	O Lord,	<b>C</b>	have mercy.
<b>P</b>	O Christ,	<b>C</b>	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. **C** **Help us, good Lord.**

**P** 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.**

**P** 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.**

**P** To prosper the teaching 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.**

**P** 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,  
**C** **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.**

**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.

**HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 419 – Savior, When in Dust to Thee**



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of  
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -  
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress  
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -  
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that  
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O  
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten  
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text and tune: Public domain

**INVOCATION**

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **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** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

† † † **WORD** † † †

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

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

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

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

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

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

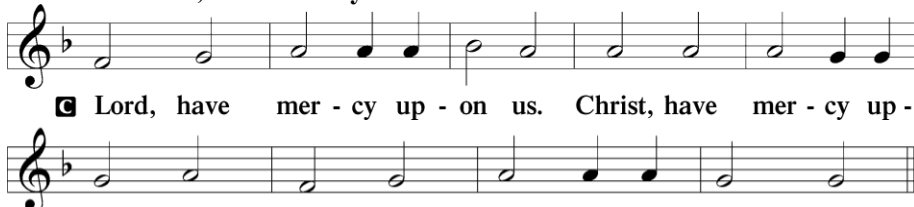
**C** **Cast me not away from your | presence,\*  
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.**

*Leader:* 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 – Lord, Have Mercy



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



## SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**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.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING – Joel 2:12–19 – Return to Me with all your heart.

<sup>12</sup>“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,

“return to Me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup>and 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.

<sup>14</sup>Who 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?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
consecrate a fast;

call a solemn assembly;  
<sup>16</sup>gather 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.

<sup>17</sup>Between 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?””

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD became jealous for His land  
and had pity on His people.

<sup>19</sup>The 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.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL** – Sung by congregation. – *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** – **2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10** – Be reconciled to God in Christ.

<sup>20b</sup>We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

<sup>2</sup>For He says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the

weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**VERSE** – *Joel 2:13b*



**C** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**HOLY GOSPEL** – **Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21** – Works of righteousness are not for show, but for your neighbor.

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>But 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. . . .

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>that 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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## NICENE CREED

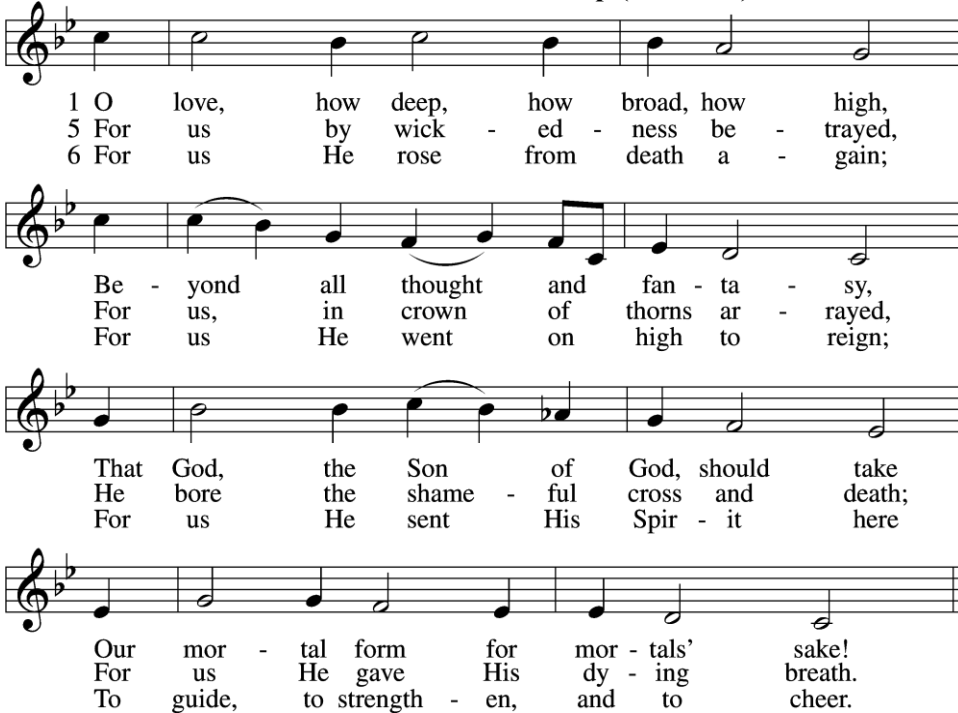
**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

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  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.



SERIES HYMN – LSB 544 – O Love, How Deep (vv. 1, 5-6)



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
5 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed,  
6 For us He rose from death a - gain;

Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
For us, in crown of thorns ar - rayed,  
For us He went on high to reign;

That God, the Son of God, should take  
He bore the shame - ful cross and death;  
For us He sent His Spir - it here

Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
For us He gave His dy - ing breath.  
To guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.

Text: Public domain

SERMON

OFFERING – *We gather the Offering in silence while the altar is prepared.*

OFFERTORY – *Psalm 51:10-12*



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

**For Guests and Visitors Desiring the Sacrament**

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we confess, in accord with the Scriptures, that **in this sacred meal Jesus Himself is truly present to forgive our sin and strengthen our faith.**

Participation in this meal indicates that you **believe, have been baptized, and have been taught** according to our Lord's command **and are in doctrinal agreement** with this confession.

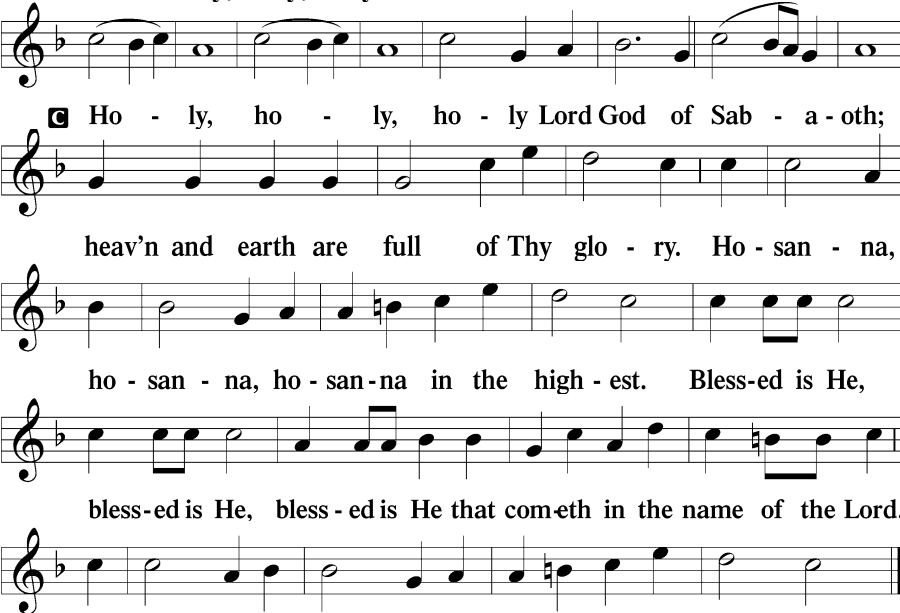
- **If you are visiting from outside the Lutheran Church or are new to the faith,** we welcome you to come to the altar with arms crossed to receive a blessing.
- **If you desire to receive instruction for the Lord's Supper,** please speak with one of our pastors.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising you and singing:

**SANCTUS – Holy, Holy, Holy – Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9**



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**LORD'S PRAYER**


**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PAX DOMINI – The Peace of the Lord – John 20:19**

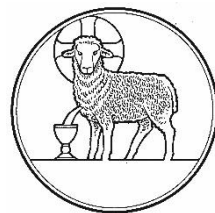
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

**AGNUS DEI – Lamb of God - John 1:29**



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

**Distribution**

**Notes:**

If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

**Non-alcoholic** grape juice, containing a *trace amount of wine*, is available in the center of the tray.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**LSB 609 – Jesus Sinners Doth Receive**

1 Je - sus sin - ners doth 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 No true shep - herd  
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee 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;  
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way  
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;  
 And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that  
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my  
 all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
 Were as scarlet my transgression,  
 It shall be as white as snow  
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
 For these words I now believe:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
 From the Law I stand acquitted.  
 Christ hath purchased my release  
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.

Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
 Also 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 doth receive.

Text and tune: Public domain

### LSB 421 – Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly  
 2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my  
 3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and  
 4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,  
 5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



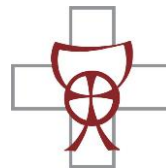
wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of  
 sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new  
 eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me  
 is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing  
 death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in  
 cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,  
 weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.  
 new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet  
 crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from  
 Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was  
 Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -  
 Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing  
 Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -





sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.  
wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.  
ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.  
pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.  
tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text and tune: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION SONG – LSB 767 – Jesus, Remember Me

*Sung as the distribution comes to a close and repeated as needed.*



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

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## THANKSGIVING

**P** O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

**C** and His mercy endureth forever.

**P** Let us pray... one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 418 – O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your  
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.  
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.  
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

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Tune: Public domain

## SILENT PRAYER

*We depart quietly, in the peace of the Lord.*

*The sanctuary will remain available after the service  
for silent prayer and meditation,  
as well as the Imposition of Ashes.*

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