

Welcome!

to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Clay Center, KS

Thank you
for joining us for worship!

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

Worship Folder



St. Paul Lutheran Communion Statement:

COMMUNION WELCOME-God calls upon His people to exercise care in the use of His Supper because harm results when Communion is received without repentance or a right understanding (1 Corinthians 11:23-30) and when fellowship is practiced without agreement in God's Word (Galatians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:14). In Communion Jesus gives us His true Body and Blood, in with and under the bread and wine, to forgive our sins (Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-21). We also profess agreement in the teachings of the church at whose altar we commune. Thus, we cannot offer this Supper to those who have not received instruction per the mysteries of this meal. We do invite fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to join our members as we receive the Sacrament today. Others are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who desire to come forward for a blessing are invited to do so, indicating their intent to receive a blessing by crossing their arms in front.

Distribution of the bread is to the hand of the communicant. "Gluten Free" wafers are available. Please let the ushers know PRIOR to service if you are needing this substitution.

Distribution of the wine is by choice of individual cup or common chalice. If you receive with the individual cup, please keep the small cup visible to the minister with the common cup. Individual cups of unfermented grape juice will be provided at the center of each of the trays for those who prefer grape juice over wine. Both are "fruit of the vine" and in the sacrament become means by which Christ grants us his blood to assure us of forgiveness, life and salvation. The unfermented grape juice is light in color.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis

The Good News of a Savior Who Covers Our Sin

AS WE GATHER

The season of the Church Year that starts with Ash Wednesday is known by differing terms in various nations. The official term that dates back to the sixth century AD is Quadragesima, from the Latin word for “fortieth.” This term is carried forward in Latin-based languages such as Spanish (*cuaresma*) and Italian (*Quaresima*). Central Europeans reflect the self-denial aspect of the Lenten time using the term *Fastenzeit* (fasting time) in Germany and *Nagybost* (great fast) in Hungary. That naming tradition is also kept in Arabic-speaking countries, where the term *Sawm al-Kabir* (big fast) is used. Northern Europeans and related countries refer to the season of the year, relating back to the old Anglo-Saxon word *Lengten-tide* (springtime), which described when the days lengthened light-wise. Although the terms for the forty days of Lent may differ, the spiritual importance of “the forty” remains constant and powerful. May keeping this time of penance and prayer with “sincerity and truth” (1 Corinthians 5:8) lead us to observe a blessed and holy Lent!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

LSB 606

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 51

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

C **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

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

C **Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

C **Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**

P Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

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

C **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

P Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

C **Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness.**

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

C **For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

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

C **Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;**

P then will You delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

C 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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609 sts. 1–3



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



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



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



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.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

P Let us now confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609 st. 4



4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

P God has promised to hear the penitent cries of His people and for the sake of Jesus, our Savior, grants remission of sins. 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.

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609 sts. 5–7



5 Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scar - let
6 Now my con - science is at peace; From the Law I
7 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Al - so I have



my trans - gres - sion, It shall be as white as snow
stand ac - quit - ted. Christ hath pur - chased my re - lease
been for - giv - en; And when I this earth must leave,



By Thy blood and bit - ter pas - sion; For these words I
And my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re - mains my
I shall find an o - pen heav - en. Dy - ing, still to



now be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
Him I cleave: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

HYMN INTRODUCTION

Reader 1: The season of Lent as a time of prayer, fasting, and repentance has a long history in the Christian Church. All the way back in the year AD 325, a document from the Council of Nicaea set forth a forty-day period leading up to Holy Week and Easter as a time of special devotion. The hymn “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” recalls the time Jesus went without food in the wilderness prior to His temptation by Satan. Through the words of the hymn, we pray that our observance of a holy Lent would reflect the sacrificial love and determination of our Savior as He carried out God’s gracious plan of salvation for us.

Reader 2: The text of this hymn for Ash Wednesday was written by American Lutheran hymn writer Gilbert Doan in the twentieth century as a paraphrase of a Lenten hymn for children written by Claudia Hernaman, an English author of more than 150 hymn texts in the previous century. Although it may have initially been directed at young people, its closing stanza serves as a prayer for people of every age, that the Lord would be with us during this time of spiritual observance and sustain us until we come to

the joys of the eternal Easter celebration. The tune to which the hymn is now sung is from seventeenth-century Scotland.

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

LSB 418

✠ **WORD** ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12–19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and 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.
¹⁴Who 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?
¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather 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.
¹⁷Between 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?'"

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹The 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

P O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our
faith,

C **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising
the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our
sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might
become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive
the grace of God in vain. ²For 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.

³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found
with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in
every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,
⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by
purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

C **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to
anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[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.

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

⁵"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. ⁶But 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. . . .

¹⁶"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. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that 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.

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

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

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

LSB 563

SERMON

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus

Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

Luke 16:11 "If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth (money), who will entrust you with the true riches?"

OFFERTORY



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

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.**

PROPER PREFACE

P 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, Your Son, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross. In Him alone is the promise of the forgiveness of sins and the assurance of life everlasting in Your gracious kingdom. Guided by the Holy Spirit and taught by our Savior, we say together:

LORD'S PRAYER

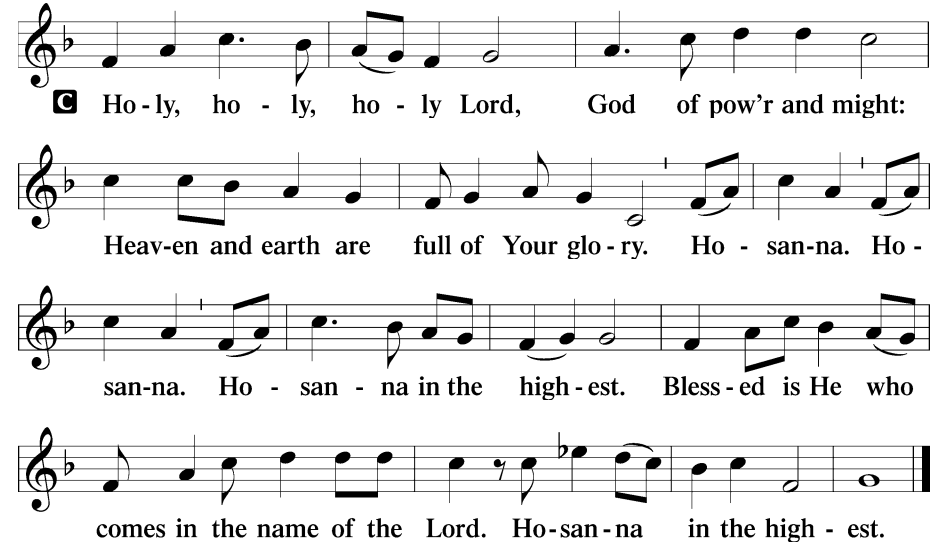
C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is 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."

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

LSB 434

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Just as I Am, without One Plea

LSB 570

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

LSB 637

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

LSB 631

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.
We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have again refreshed us with the body and blood of Your only-begotten Son. As You have covered us in the righteousness of Your beloved Son, grant that we walk with faith and hope in these days that You have blessed as we

await the glory of heaven, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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.

Silence for reflection

LITANY

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.

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 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 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.

As the ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

CLOSING COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, we beseech You to grant us true repentance and Your Holy Spirit, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy and that at the last we may come to Your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P** 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.**

Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.
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