

**The Divine Service  
for Ash Wednesday**



**Saint John Lutheran Church**  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
**March 6, 2019**

# The Worship of the Holy Church Throughout the World During the Season of Lent

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

*Joel 2:13*

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 in the Word of the Lord 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 that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

## + The Preparation +

*Please stand.*

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

**C Amen.**

**P** Father of all mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer.

**C Amen.**

**Psalm 51** *is spoken responsively.*

**P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

**C according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

**P** Wash away all my iniquity,

**C and cleanse me from my sin.**

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

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

**P** Surely I have been a sinner from birth,  
**C** sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

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

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

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

**P** Hide your face from my sins,  
**C** and blot out my iniquity.

**ALL: 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.**

**P** Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
**C** and sinners will return to you.

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

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

**P** For you do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
**C** you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

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

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

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

**ALL: 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.**

*The minister addresses the exhortation to the congregation.*

**P** Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to return to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love — the discipline of Lent — help us to wage our spiritual warfare.

I invite you, therefore to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

*The minister leads the congregation in confession:*

**P** Most holy and merciful Father:

**C We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**P** 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.**

**P** 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 your Holy Spirit.

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

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

**C we confess to you, Lord.**

**P** Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**C we confess to you, Lord.**

**P** Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**C we confess to you, Lord.**

**P** Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**C we confess to you, Lord.**

**P** Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**C accept our repentance, Lord.**

**P** For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**C accept our repentance, Lord**

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

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

*Please be seated. Those who desire to receive ashes present themselves before the altar.*

*The minister applies ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:*

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

*After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.*

*Please stand.*

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

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

**P** By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

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

**P** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

*A period of silence for reflection on God's gracious disposition toward his rebellious people and for prayer for repentance and the Holy Spirit, that actively dedicated to doing God's will we may at last enter into the joy of the Lord.*

## + The Word +

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Almighty and everlasting God, because you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent, create in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily repenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

### Old Testament Reading

*Joel 2:12–19*

*The Old Testament Reading for Ash Wednesday is from Joel, chapter two.*

<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.

### Epistle

*2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

*The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, chapters five and six.*

<sup>20</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>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.

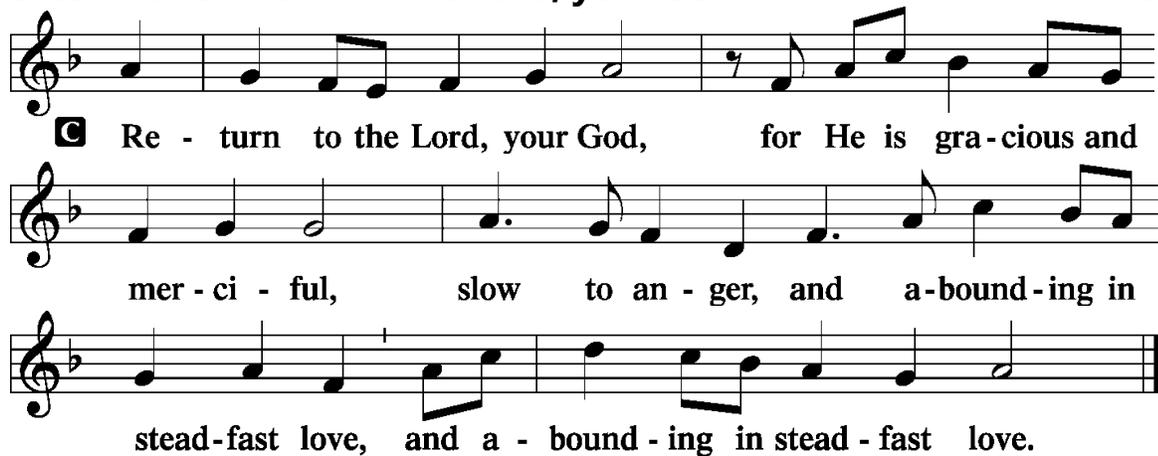
**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

### The Lenten Verse-Return to the Lord, your God

LSB 157



**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

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

**C** Glory to you, 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 to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## Psalm 130

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

<sup>2</sup>O Lord, hear my voice!

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice  
of my pleas for mercy!**

<sup>3</sup>If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
**O Lord, who could stand?**

<sup>4</sup>But with you there is forgiveness,  
**that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
**and in his word I hope;**

<sup>6</sup>my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,  
**more than watchmen for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
**and with him is plentiful redemption.**

<sup>8</sup>And he will redeem Israel  
**from all his iniquities.**

**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.



Remember man  
that you are  
dust and into  
dust you shall  
return.

# ✦ The Meal ✦

## The Preface, Proper Preface, and Sanctus

**P** The LORD be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

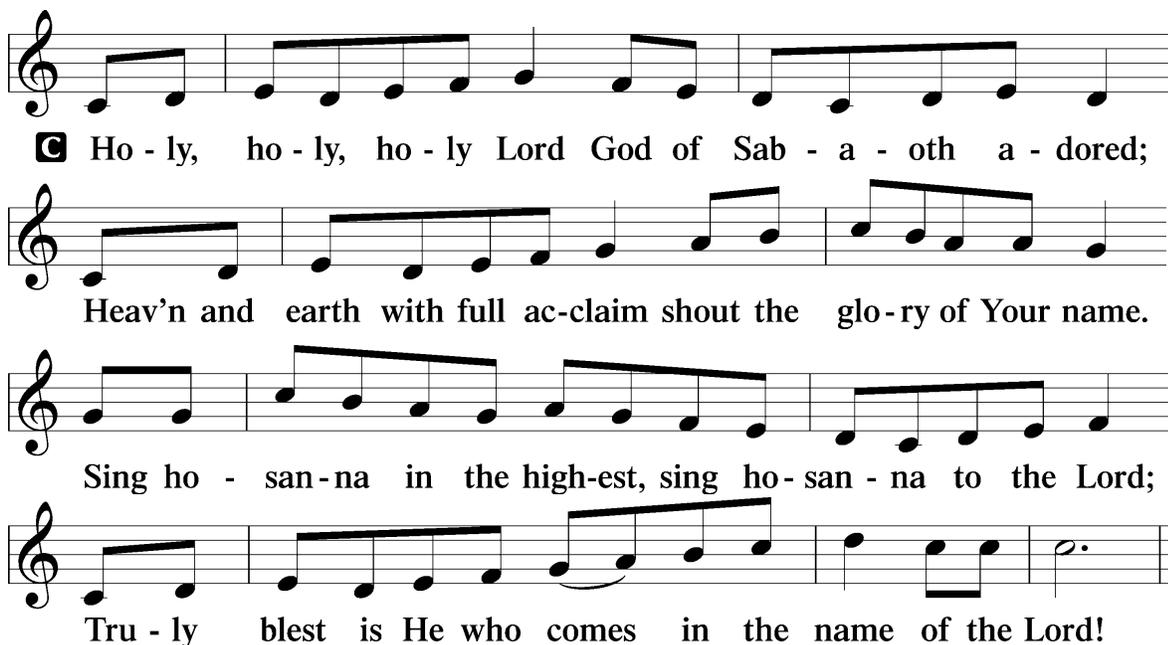
**C** We lift them to the LORD.

**P** Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

*LSB 208*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Our Father

**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 Institution

# Agnus Dei

LSB 962

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a -  
way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of  
God, You take a - way the sin of the world; grant us Your  
peace, grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace.

*Please be seated.*

CREATE IN ME A  
*clean heart,*  
O GOD,  
AND RENEW A  
*right spirit*  
WITHIN ME. PSALM 51:10

## The Distribution and the Hymns

### 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422

On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,  
That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

**431 Not All the Blood of Beasts**

LSB 431

1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain  
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;  
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,  
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear  
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;  
Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.  
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.  
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.  
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.  
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

**433 Glory Be to Jesus**

LSB 433

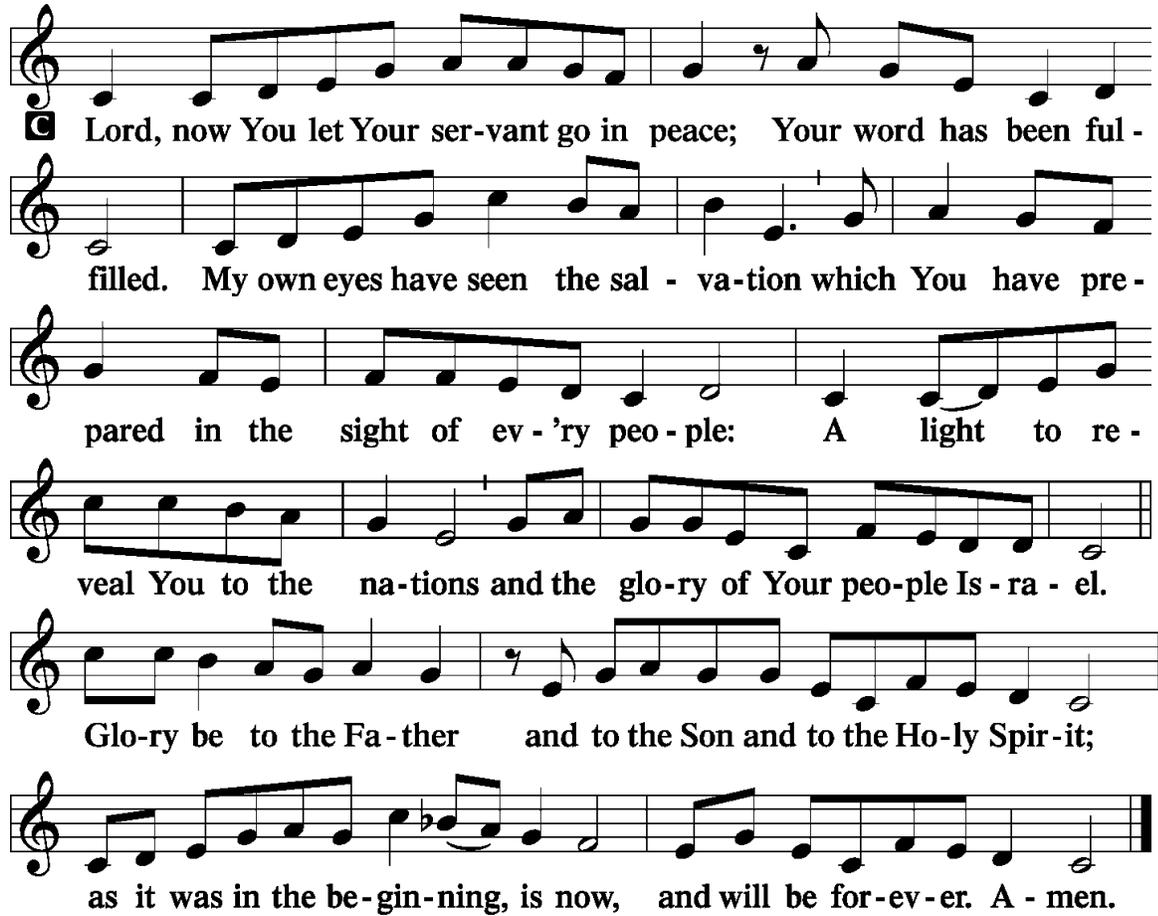
1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains  
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;  
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream  
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;  
Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!  
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!  
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!  
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

5 Oft as earth exulting  
Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing  
Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices,  
Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder  
Praise the precious blood!

**The Nunc Dimittis** — *Please stand.*

LSB 182



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to reveal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

**The Prayer**

**C** Amen.

**The Benedicamus and the Benediction**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**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.

*The congregation greets one another in the peace of Christ.*