



# Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)  
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take part. Many times, the words “dust you are, and to dust you are spoken as ashes are received on the forehead. These words that as a result of sin and the fall, death is a reality. Ashes also the practice in Scripture of wearing sackcloth and ashes as a sign and repentance of sin. Typically, however, the ashes are marked in the shape of the cross, pointing us to the promise of forgiveness of Jesus’ crucifixion for us. After leaving worship, we will each receive the ashen cross. As we splash water on our foreheads, we are reminded of our Baptism, where we were cleansed of sin through water and the Holy Spirit. Whether literally marked with ashes or not, we all enter this present season of Lent praying that God Almighty would have mercy on all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**HYMN** “Today Your Mercy Calls Us” .....

## **INVOCATION**

*P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

*P: Return to the Lord, your God,  
**C: for He is gracious and merciful,**  
*P: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
**C: and He relents over disaster.****

*P: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ on Ash Wednesday,*

those who believe in Your Son; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

### THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

**Those who desire to receive ashes come forward. As the ashes are applied, the following is said:**

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

**Response: Amen.**

**Men: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love, according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

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

**Men: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

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

**HYMN** "Savior, When in Dust to Thee" ..... LSB 419  
(Sung during the imposition)

**Men: Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 51:1, 10*

*P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;*

**C: according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

*P: Create in me a clean heart, O God,*

**C: and renew a right spirit within me.**

*Women: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me by your willing spirit.*

**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.**

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

*P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

**C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

### SALUTATION

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Let us pray. Holy Lord,*

may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. <sup>16</sup> "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." <sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

**Matthew 6:24-33**

<sup>24</sup> Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. <sup>25</sup> Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you?"

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS**

*(From LSB, pp. 286–87)*

*P: Hear my prayer, O Lord;*

**C: let my cry come to You.** *Psalm 102:1*

*P: In the day of my trouble I call upon You,*

**C: for You answer me.** *Psalm 86:7*

*P: Hide Your face from my sins,*

**C: and blot out all my iniquities.**

*P: Create in me a clean heart, O God,*

**C: and renew a right spirit within me.**

*P: Cast me not away from Your presence,*

**C: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

*P: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,*

**great!”** *Psalm 70:4*

*P: Save Your people and bless Your heritage!*

**C: Be their shepherd and carry them forever.** *Psalm 28:9*

*P: Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;*

**C: listen to my plea for grace.** *Psalm 86:6*

*P: Lord, have mercy.*

**C: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

If you are a confirmed member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation and would like to come forward with your family and friends during the distribution, please place your hands over your heart and you will receive a blessing.

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in*

*and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

*P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim  
Your death until He comes.*

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us  
Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember  
Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in  
the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into  
heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us  
in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

### **THE 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 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. Amen.

### **THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

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

**C: Amen.**



Have mer-cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je -

And grant that in time opened side  
My troubled soul may ever hide.

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

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*P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that given us repentant hearts. We praise You for freely giving forgiveness we so desperately need through bread and wine, Your true body and blood given for us; through Jesus Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** "Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light" ..... TLH 148

**1. Lord Jesus Christ, my Life, my Light,  
My strength by day, my Trust by night,  
On earth I'm but a passing guest  
And sorely with my sins oppress.**

**2. Far off I see my fatherland.  
Where thro' Thy blood I hope to stand.  
But ere I reach that Paradise,  
A weary way before me lies.**

**3. My heart sinks at the journey's length,  
My wasted flesh has little strength;  
My soul alone still cries in me:  
"Lord, take me home, take me to Thee!"**

**4. Oh, let Thy suff'rings give me pow'r  
To meet the last and darkest hour!  
Thy blood refresh and comfort me;  
Thy bonds and fetters make me free.**

**5. Oh, let Thy holy wounds for me**

**BENEDICTION**

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

**C: and He relents over disaster.**

*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 and give you peace.*

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN** "O Sacred Head" .....

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*Whose Cross Is It Anyway?* written by Mark & Karla Jensen.

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