

*Ash Wednesday*

March 5, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

*St. John's Lutheran Church*

*The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives*

Red Bud, Illinois

*Due to the solemn character of the day, pre-service music and a hymn of invocation are omitted.*

**THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to holy worship.**

+ Preparation +

**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.

**OPENING SENTENCES:**

*Psalm 90*

S: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

**C: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**

S: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

**C: For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.**

S: For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You?

**C: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

S: Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on Your servants!

**C: Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

S: Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.

**C: Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children.**

S: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

*Silence for reflection*

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:

**“Lamb of God” (LSB 550)**



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have  
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a  
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.  
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
rod, And to be called a lamb of God.



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre-cious blood, My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

**INVOCATION:**

P: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:**

**Joel 2:13**

P: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C: **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

P: Let us rend our hearts, confessing our sins to God, our Father.

**C:** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by our own hands, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. He has opened His hands in the free blessings of the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

+ Word +

**SALUTATION:**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**COLLECT OF THE DAY:**

**P:** Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, we are reminded of our dependence upon You as the giver of life and salvation through Christ's cross and resurrection. Keep us ever mindful that You have filled our empty hands with Your blessing. Guard us from seeking the earthly reward of human praise only to the neglect of the reward that You give us by Your grace; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:**

*Joel 2:12–19*

**S:** The Old Testament Reading is from Joel, the second chapter.

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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. 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?’”

Then the Lord became jealous for His land and had pity on His people. 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.”

S: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:**

*Psalm 51:1–13*

S: Have mercy on me, O God,

**C: according to Your steadfast love;**

S: according to Your abundant mercy

**C: blot out my transgressions.**

S: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

**C: and cleanse me from my sin!**

S: For I know my transgressions,

**C: and my sin is ever before me.**

S: Against You, You only, have I sinned

**C: and done what is evil in Your sight,**

S: so that You may be justified in Your words

**C: and blameless in Your judgment.**

S: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

**C: and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

S: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,

**C: and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

S: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**C: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

S: Let me hear joy and gladness;

**C: let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**

S: Hide Your face from my sins,

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

S: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

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

S: Cast me not away from Your presence,

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

S: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

**C: and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

S: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,

**C: and sinners will return to You.**

**EPISTLE:**

*2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

S: The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, the fifth and sixth chapters.

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

Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 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. We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

S: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN:**

**“The Lamb” (LSB 547:1)**

**The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where’s the sacrifice?**

**Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!**

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!**

**The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**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.**

[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.

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

“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. 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. . . .

“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. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 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.

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

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

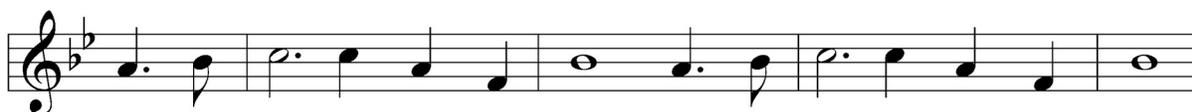
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN:

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” (LSB 761)



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,  
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;  
When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.  
Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

SERMON

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 of the world to come. Amen.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:**

**P:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who enter this holy season of Lent in true repentance and faith—that God guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh; cleanse our hearts; and renew a right spirit within us—let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For all who do not know the gracious invitation of God through His Son to return to Him—that many may hear and be drawn to the Lord's merciful and saving hands—let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For those who have wandered from the faith—that the Holy Spirit restore them to the only hope of salvation—let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For the government and those placed in positions of authority—that they perform their duties with honor for the good of all people—let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For all who suffer from sickness, injury, or any need—that the Lord's healing hand rest upon them, giving them strength to bear their infirmities with patience—let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**OFFERTORY:**

**“The Lamb” LSB #547, vs. 4**

**He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness.  
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**+ 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, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS:**

*LSB, p. 161*



**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.**

**LORD'S PRAYER:**

**P:** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PAX DOMINI:**

*LSB, p. 163*

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

C: Amen.

**AGNUS DEI:**

*LSB, p. 163*



☐ 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 peace.

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

#### “I Lay My Sins on Jesus” (LSB 606)



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;  
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;  
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.  
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.  
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains  
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;  
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.  
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.  
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” (LSB 611)



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,

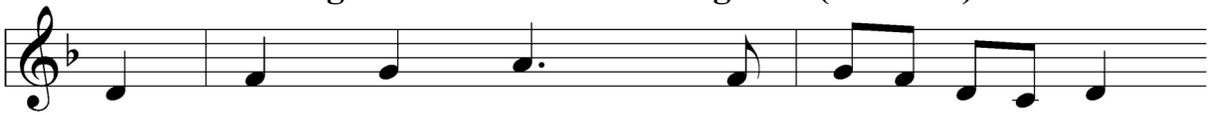


Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” (LSB 843)



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,”  
 2 How can Your par - don reach and bless  
 3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals  
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can  
 The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and  
 The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are  
 And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.  
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
 owed to us, How great our debt to You!  
 bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:

LSB, p. 165



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal 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.

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

**C: Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**

P: You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

**C: Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C: Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We give thanks to You, O God, that by Your hand this day You have satisfied our deepest desire, the renewal of our hearts and spirits by the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of everlasting life. Help us to have generous and thankful hearts and hands to share Your mercy and grace as we forgive our neighbors as we ourselves have been forgiven by You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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 T give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

HYMN:

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” (LSB 722)



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;  
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,  
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.  
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.  
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.

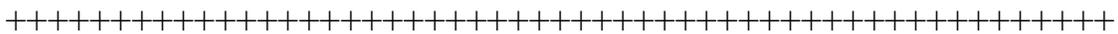


With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;  
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,  
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.  
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.  
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

Postlude: “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” arranged by Kenneth T. Kosche



***Serving Us in Worship Today***

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark Winkelman & Pastor Brian Nowak

Lectors: Colton Albert & Lucas Summers

Organist: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak

Acolyte: Brayden McCarthy