



ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 5, 2025

**congregation stands*

AS WE GATHER

In this service for Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent contemplating that Jesus is our Forgiver. We will remind ourselves that Jesus forgives us again and again by his cross, even though we do not deserve it.

***INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

P We gather together as friends in the presence of the Triune God who has called us friends. We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P A friend loves at all times,

C **And a brother is born for adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)**

P The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,

C **And he makes known to them his covenant. (Psalm 25:14)**

P A man of many companions may come to ruin,

C **But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24)**

P What a friend we have in Jesus,

C **All our sins and griefs to bear!**

P Precious Savior, still our refuge—

C **Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P Answer me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good;
according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.

C **Hide not Your face from Your servant;
for I am in distress; make haste to answer me.
Draw near to my soul, redeem me;
ransom me because of my enemies!**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray.

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.**

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

The people come forward to receive the ashes; the hymn is sung during the imposition of ashes.

HYMN

JESUS SINNERS DOTH RECEIVE

LSB 609, vs. 1–4

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Jesus, friend of sinners, hear me as I confess my sins.

C **My thoughts have befriended sin and shame, not truth and righteousness.**

P

Lord, you have searched me and known me! (Psalm 139:1)

C **My words have befriended lies and slander, not love and mercy.**

P Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. (Psalm 139:4)

C **My deeds have befriended hate and hurt, not peace and kindness.**

P You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. (Psalm 139:3)

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

You are invited to silently reflect on the ways that you have befriended sin—and yet Jesus still calls you a friend.

P Friends in Jesus: You have a Savior who has lived for you, died for you, and left the tomb empty for you. Your Servant Jesus has humbled himself to care for you. Your Friend, Christ Jesus, has cleansed

you from all unrighteousness and washed away your sin. Jesus forgives you and loves you. Jesus is your friend now and for all eternity.

C **What a friend we have in Jesus.**

*SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

*COLLECT

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, you have invited us to take everything to you in prayer. You know our weaknesses and how we are heavy-laden. You know the burdens that we carry in our hearts and minds. Precious Savior, be our refuge. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us this Lent that we may know your friendship and love. We pray 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

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.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 1:9–14

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of

the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

READING

Luke 7:36–49

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁶One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

⁴¹"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"

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

HYMN

JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

LSB 570, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5

SERMON

From the series: Savior, Servant, Friend—FORGIVER

OFFERING

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After our petitions:

- P Lord, in your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**

- P Jesus, deliver us from isolation, and give us a seat at your table where we receive your body and blood for the forgiveness of our sin.
- C **Jesus, what a privilege it is to be your friend. Amen.**

***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 SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR**

- P *What is the Sacrament of the Altar?*
- C **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.**
- P *Who receives this Sacrament worthily?*
- C **Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

- P Holy and blessed Lord, though You created us in holiness to live for You alone, we rebelled against Your purpose and sought our own glory. When that glory led only to death and made captive all the sons and daughters of Adam, You spoke in mercy of the salvation to come. You sent forth the prophets to call the generations to repentance and faith until, in the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born under the Law to redeem us with His own blood that we might be Your own, live under You in holiness and righteousness all our days, and look in faith to that day when He will bring to completion all that You began in us in our Baptism and grant us everlasting life. Here in this Holy Eucharist we remember what He has done to save us and with thankful hearts, we receive His flesh for the life of the world and His blood, which cleanses us from all sin, as His Word does promise. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***PAX DOMINI**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION Distribution is at the rail, with both common cup and individual cup; de-alcoholized wine in center of tray. Gluten free wafers available by signifying to pastor/elder. Please use the pew cards to register your attendance at Holy Communion.

HYMN DRAW NEAR AND TAKE THE BODY OF THE LORD LSB 637

HYMN JESUS, THY BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LSB 563

***POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

***BENEDICTION**

P Jesus has called you friends and made known to you all that he has heard from the Father. Go now as friends of Jesus befriending others in the name of Jesus. Amen.

C **What a friend we have in Jesus! Amen.**

HYMN TO DEPART

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

LSB 770

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Serving Our Lord

		Wed. March 5, 6:30pm	Wed. March 12, 6:30pm
Meal	5:15pm	Served by: TLO Teachers	Served by: DC trip fundraising
Musician	6:30pm	Diane Streich	Marsha Workman
Cantor	6:30pm	Andy Koch	Dave Workman
Altar Guild	6:30pm	Roxanne and Gary Foley	Roxanne and Gary Foley
Elder(s)	6:30pm	Kurt Vallin	Bill Breitinger
Reader	6:30pm	Jim Kohn	Kurt Vallin
Usher Team	6:30pm	Ben Swenson	Jon Peteson
Acolyte	6:30pm	Dana Vallin, Joshua Jebin	Dana Vallin
Projection	6:30pm	Sebastian Ness	Open
Live Stream	6:30pm	Jim Nicklas	Jim Nicklas