

SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

Ash Wednesday
Divine Service



Our Savior Lutheran Church

Westminster, MA

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

Note: Ash Wednesday begins the special season of penitential reflection that we call Lent. Ashes are a sign of repentance and sorrow and also a reminder of our human mortality. As this day and this season remind us of our sin and its wages, it is with repentant joy that we are also reminded of our forgiveness through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Intending to amend our sinful lives, we receive with thankfulness the renewal that comes by the forgiveness delivered in the Lord's Supper. Out of love for God's Word and God's people, guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with the pastor before the service.

The Lenten Admonition

> *Silence for reflection follows the admonition.* <

THE LITANY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

O Lord, **have mercy.**

O Christ, **have mercy.**

O Lord, **have mercy.**

O Christ, **hear us.**

God the Father in heaven, **have mercy.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy.**

Be gracious to us. **Spare us, good Lord.**

Be gracious to us. **Help us, good Lord.**

*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: **help us, good Lord.***

*In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment: **help us, good Lord.***

*We poor sinners implore You **to hear us, O Lord.***

*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: **we implore You to hear us, good Lord.***

*To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all: **we implore You to hear us, good Lord.***

*To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers; **we implore You to hear us, good Lord.***

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, **we implore You to hear us, good Lord.***



*Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **have mercy.***

*Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **have mercy.***

*Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **grant us Your peace.***

*O Christ, **hear us.***

*O Lord, **have mercy.***

*O Christ, **have mercy.***

*O Lord, **have mercy. Amen.***

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. **Amen.***



The Imposition of Ashes

> In Christian freedom, those who wish to receive ashes may come forward. <

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: EXODUS 20

Thus says the LORD: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

> Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination through the Ten Commandments. <

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, 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.

The Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

Amen.

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT

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. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

from the Old Testament: Joel 2:12–19

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalms 51:1–13, antiphon v. 17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

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

according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

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

from the Letters: 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE VERSE

Joel 2:13b

Return to the LORD, your God,

for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

from the Gospels: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE NICENE CREED

Having heard the Word, what do you believe?

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 Ghost 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father,

and He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead,

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified,

who spake by the prophets.

And I believe in one, holy, catholic, 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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head. | 4 Lord, I believe, were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made. |
| 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day,
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame. | 5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me. |
| 3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me. | 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid. |

Text: Public domain

The Sermon

Psalm 51

Prayer of the Church

THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

It is good and right that we do.

THE PROPER PREFACE

It is truly meet, 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:

THE SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

THE PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI

John 1:29

**O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
grant us Your peace. Amen.**

The Holy Communion

> All who receive Holy Communion here must first be instructed. Our pastor will be very glad to instruct you. Please contact the office for an appointment. Those who have not been instructed may come forward with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.

During the distribution, silently pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ present and absent, for those in need, for your own family and friends, and for yourselves or meditate on one of the seven penitential psalms: Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, or 143. <

THE POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

*Let us pray. Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Your name. **Amen.***

THE BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

HYMN TO DEPART – TUNE: TLH 320/LSB 610 – TEXT: LSB 610

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Lord Jesus, think on me
And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free
And make me pure within.</p> <p>2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be
And taste Your promised rest.</p> | <p>3 Lord Jesus, think on me
Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery,
O be my health and life!</p> <p>4 Lord Jesus, think on me
Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point out Your chosen way.</p> <p>5 Lord Jesus, think on me
That, when this life is past,
I may th'eternal brightness see
And share Your joy at last.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Public domain

Preacher & Celebrant: Rev Peter F. Gregory
Liturgist: David Farabaugh (7:00 pm)
Acolyte: Lazarus Gregory
Organist: Judy Greenlees (12:00 pm); Anne Bennet (7:00 pm)

Lenten Midweek Services—March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

Wednesday Services • 12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m. | Lenten Suppers • 6:00 p.m.

This year we hear from the Book of Lamentations. As we take up the Lamentations of Zion, we hold fast to this hope: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end” (Lam 3:22). These are the themes and readings for each week:

March 1 • The Misery of Fallen Zion: Lamentations 1; Luke 23:32–38

March 8 • The Felling of Majestic Zion: Lamentations 2; Luke 23:39–43

March 15 • The Suffering Servant of Zion: Lamentations 3; Mark 15:16–20, 27–34

March 22 • The Desecration of Holy Zion: Lamentations 4; Luke 23:44–49

March 29 • The Prayer for the Remnant of Zion: Lamentations 5; Matthew 27:45–50, 57–61

Martin Luther wrote, “[God] stands hidden among the sufferings which would separate us from Him like a wall, indeed, like a wall of a fortress. And yet He looks upon me and does not forsake me. He stands there ready to help in grace, and through the window of dim faith He permits Himself to be seen. . . . They who in such suffering trust God and hold on to a good, firm confidence in Him, who believe that He is well-pleased with them, see in their sufferings and afflictions nothing but pure and precious merits, the costliest treasures which no man can assess. For faith and confidence make precious before God all that which others think most shameful” (*Luther’s Works* 44:28).

Palm Sunday, April 2

Divine Services at 10:00 am • 6:00 pm

Maundy Thursday, April 6

Divine Services at 12:00 noon • 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 7

Chief Service • 12:00 noon † Tenebrae Vespers • 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil • Saturday, April 8

Divine Service • 7:00 pm

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday, April 9

Divine Service at 10:00 am

preceded by Easter Breakfast

Visitor, you are very welcome here.

Office@OurSaviorLCMS.com or 978-874-2479 • www.oursaviorlcms.com

1 Hager Park Road (Junction 140, 2, and 2A) • Westminster, MA 01473