

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday



ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE

Explanation of Symbols

- P** Presiding minister (ordained)
- A** Assisting minister (lay)
- C** Congregation
- I** Male/Lower voices
- II** Female/Higher voices
- ✙ The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of baptism
- ❖ You may bow as a sign of reverence

The congregation assembles in silence

THE RITE OF PREPARATION

Stand

- I** 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.

Silence for reflection

LITANY

- P** O Lord,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
- C** **hear us.**
- P** God the Father in heaven,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C have mercy.

P God the Holy Spirit,

C have mercy.

P Be gracious to us.

C Spare us, good Lord.

P Be gracious to us.

C Help us, good Lord.

P 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:

C Help us, good Lord.

P In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgement:

C Help us, good Lord.

P We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

P 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:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P 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:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;
and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ,

C **hear us.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy. Amen.**

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.**

Sit

THE IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

The congregation remains seated during the imposition of the ashes. Each person comes forward to receive the ashes and then sits down.

The ashes are placed on the forehead of each sign in the sign of the cross, with the words:

L Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

During the imposition of the ashes, the following penitential psalm is spoken,

Psalm 32

**Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,*
whose sin is covered.**

**Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,*
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away*
 through my groaning all day long.
 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;*
 my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;*
 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you
 forgave the iniquity of my sin.
 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time
 when you may be found;*
 surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;*
 you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;*
 I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
 Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,*
 which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near
 you.
 Many are the sorrows of the wicked,*
 but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,*
 and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!
 ❖ *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.

CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P I will go to the altar of God,

C To God, my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Sit

The pastor reads the Confessional Address, concluding as follows:

P May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us

C **Amen.**

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C **Yes.**

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

The pastor approaches each penitent and pronounces the absolution individually as follows:

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in † peace.

C **Amen.**

When all have been absolved, they greet each other in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you."

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P 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.

C Amen.

Sit

THE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT READING—Joel 2:12–19

After the reading:

L This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51

A The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;*

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

I Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;*,
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

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

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

II 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 judgement.

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

II Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,*
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

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

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

I Hide your face from my sins,*
and blot out all my iniquities.

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

- I** Cast me not away from your presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- II** Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- I** Then I will teach transgressors your ways,*
and sinners will return to you.
- II** Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,*
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- I** O Lord, open my lips,*
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- II** For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;*
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- I** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- II** Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;*
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- I** then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole
burnt offerings;*
then bulls will be offered on your altar.
- II** Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit;
- I** as it was in the beginning,*
is now and will be forever. Amen.
- A** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

EPISTLE READING—2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

After the reading:

- L** This is the word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

GRADUAL

Ps. 57:1a, 3a

- A** Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,*
for in you my soul takes refuge.
He will send from heaven and save me,*
he will put to shame him who tramples on me.

TRACT

Ps 103:10; 79:8a, 9a

- A** He does not deal with us according to our sins,*
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Do not remember against us our former iniquities;*
let your compassion come speedily to meet us.
Help us, O God of our salvation,*
for the glory of your name.

THE HOLY GOSPEL—Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

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

G **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

G **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in ✠ Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by 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 Almighty.
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.

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you ... evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

C *Holy, holy holy*

Lord God of Sabaoth;

heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed † is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us 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, the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace..

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

Silent prayer before receiving the Sacrament:

Dear Saviour, I come to Your table at Your gracious invitation to eat and drink Your holy Body and Blood. Let me find favour in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

- C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace*
according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,*
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people.
a Light to lighten the Gentiles*
and the glory of Thy people Israel.
❖ *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.

THANKSGIVING

- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.
C And His mercy endureth forever.

L Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P The Lord be with you.

C And with Thy Spirit

L Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C Amen.

The service concludes in silence.