

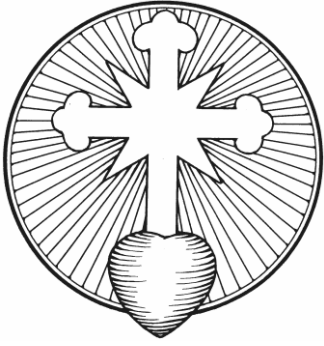
# Ash Wednesday



"Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2b). Now! On Ash Wednesday the liturgy summons us to 40 days of preparation for the celebration of the Lord's pascha, His passage through the waters of death into life. Preparation for the Three Holy Days is a sign of a life committed to daily dying and rising. Preparation is a matter of urgency, not something to be put off. The bridegroom and bride are summoned to leave their bridal chamber! God hates nothing He has made. He forgives the sins of all who are penitent. Today the church "blows the trumpet" and summons all, both those who have followed Christ for many years and those who are just now seeking a place in His company, despite the urgency of daily demands, to cry out to the Lord, "Spare Your people!"

Repentance is a way of life. That life is characterized by "giving to the needy" (almsgiving), prayer, and fasting (self-denial). Faith is expressed in action; it is not merely intellectual exercise or emotional experience. Faith moves us to do the works of Christ. Faith is not a matter of public show but of communion with God and the giving of self as Christ gave Himself. Lent is not a burden but an opportunity for reconciliation with God, the washing away of sin, and the consecration of life to God.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH-DEWITT MI AN LCMS CONGREGATION



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and sets the tone of the season. It is a pointed call to repentance, which is to say that it is a return to the death and resurrection of Holy Baptism by way of confession and faith in the forgiveness of sins. Thus the imposition of ashes, from which the day receives its name, recalls both the mortality of sinful man and the redemption of Christ, into which His followers have been baptized. This context of contrition and repentance, fully and firmly centered in the cross and resurrection of Christ Jesus, is the framework within which the Lenten fast is undertaken. A focus on Christ's Passion will not be chiefly an emotional or intellectual exercise, though the Word and Spirit of God engage both the intellect and the emotions. Rather, in faith the Passion is approached as the very heart of the Gospel, which the Lord our Savior has accomplished for us and now bestows on us with His Means of Grace.

### ***Communion Practice***

**On the basis of God's Holy Word, Hope Lutheran Church** continues to practice the ancient, Biblical and confessional practice of close(d) communion as an opportunity to give joyful witness to our unity in the Christian faith. Guests who are joining us this morning and hold membership in one of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us in the reception of this great gift. Please take time to introduce yourself to Pastor Sikora prior to the Divine Service.

**Because the nature of the Lord's Supper involves unity of doctrine** and because Christendom is currently divided by denomination over doctrine and practice, we are unable to commune those who hold membership in other denominations. For a further explanation of fellowship in the Lord's Supper please take a few moments to read the tract, "What About: Fellowship in the Lord's Supper" which has been placed in the pew rack. You are invited to take one with you for further study. May God bless your reception of His Word this morning.

***We welcome you to church today, and it is a blessing to have you here.*** Our Lord has put His name upon us in blessing at the beginning of the Divine Service and is given to us in blessing again at our departure. May our time spent in service and prayer today be filled with the Holy Spirit; so that we may speak of God's love and glory to those in our lives.

*You are encouraged to enter the sanctuary in silence in reverence to our Lord. Prayers before worship can be found in the front cover of the hymnal.*

✠ *In Nomine Jesu* ✠  
Ash Wednesday  
“Public Use of the Office of the Keys”  
February 14, 2024 A.D.

*Today’s service setting is from Divine Service Setting Three with Litany Prayer*

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*At the conclusion of the bell toll, please stand.*

### **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.

*Silence for reflection.*

### **LITANY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY (spoken)**

**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 judgment:  
**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 our need of 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 to graciously 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.

## Confession and Absolution

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*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** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

*Be Seated*

### THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*The pastor and assistants receive ashes first, followed by the congregation. Using the right thumb, the pastor or an assistant places the ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying:*

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

*After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence.*

*The congregation is encouraged to pray the Psalms during the imposition of ashes. The following references are provided, and can be found in the front of the hymnal.*

Psalm 51:1–19 - Psalm 32:1-7- Psalm 121- Psalm 22

The following hymn is sung after the imposition of ashes.

### HYMN- 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of  
3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -  
4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress  
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -  
Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that  
Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O  
veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten  
heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing

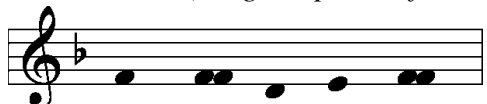


from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

### Service of the Word

Stand

**SALUTATION** (sung or spoken-if the salutation is spoken the response is spoken)



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECT OF THE DAY

**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.

**C** Amen.

*Be Seated*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING- *Joel 2:12-19*

*Reading response*

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL FOR LENT- Introduction; All sing.



[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,\*  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

## EPISTLE- *2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10*

*Reading response*

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## HOLY GOSPEL- *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.



*Reading response*

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

## **NICENE CREED**

**G** 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.

## HYMN OF THE DAY: 607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee



1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and  
 2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out  
 3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in  
 4 And though it tar - ry through the night And till the  
 5 Though great our sins, yet great - er still Is God's a -



trib - u - la - tion; Bend down Thy gra - cious  
 my trans - gres - sion; The best and ho - liest  
 mine own mer - it; It rests up - on His  
 morn - ing wak - en, My heart shall nev - er  
 bun - dant fa - vor; His hand of mer - cy



ear to me, Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion.  
 deeds must fail To break sin's dread op - pres - sion.  
 faith - ful Word To them of con - trite spir - it  
 doubt His might Nor count it - self for - sak - en.  
 nev - er will A - ban - don us, nor wa - ver.



If Thou re - mem - b'rest ev - 'ry sin, Who then could heav - en  
 Be - fore Thee none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear Thy  
 That He is mer - ci - ful and just; This is my com - fort  
 O Is - rael, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spir - it  
 Our shep - herd good and true is He, Who will at last His



ev - er win Or stand be - fore Thy pres - ence?  
 strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.  
 and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.  
 and the Word, Now wait for His ap - pear - ing.  
 Is - rael free From all their sin and sor - row.

*Be Seated*

## SERMON

### VOTUM

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY-**“Create in Me”

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

*Be Seated*

**OFFERING**

*Stand*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**

O Lord our God, the Father of mercies, You have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that the wicked turn from their way and live. Out of Your infinite goodness, You have delivered up Your only begotten Son to the death of the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. For His sake, remember not our ingratitude and indifference, but have mercy upon us and forgive us all our sins.

As Your dear Son was wounded for our transgressions and by His stripes we are healed, let us daily meditate upon His Passion with true repentance and sincere faith, that His death may be our life, His righteousness our salvation, His conflict our victory and everlasting peace. Replenish us with Your Holy Spirit that, loving You with our whole hearts, we may walk by faith according to your Word, blameless in Your sight. Teach us to love one another, to bear one another's burdens and so to fulfill the Law of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve and who gave His life as a ransom for many. Help us likewise to love our enemies and from our hearts to forgive everyone who trespasses against us. Let us follow the example of our Savior in patiently enduring the trials and afflictions of this present world, that, having suffered with Him, we may also be glorified with Him. For His sake hear all who cry to You in sorrow and distress, and deliver them according to their need and Your abundant mercy.

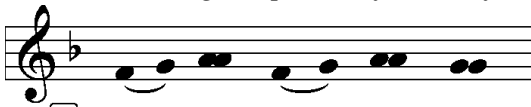
Bestow Your blessing upon the ministry of reconciliation. May the preaching of the cross become a message of peace and the very power of Your Gospel unto the ends of the earth, that all the nations may be delivered from the darkness of their sins and glorify Your gracious name with all Your saints in light. Grant courage and strength to the ministers of Your Word to preach Christ and Him Crucified, both in season and out season, calling sinners to repentance and believers to rejoice in Your salvation. May the death of Your Son be our comfort in our last hour, and let us depart in peace to rise with Him to life everlasting; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen**

## Service of the Sacrament

*Visitors are encouraged to read our communion practice, printed on inside cover of the bulletin.  
When the Pastor speaks the sung parts of the service, the congregation's response is spoken*

**PREFACE** (sung or spoken- if the Preface is spoken the responses are spoken)



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - 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, 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



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

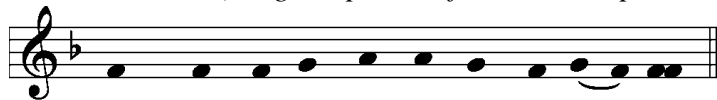
## LORD'S PRAYER

**P** 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.

**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *(Spoken or chanted by the Pastor)*

### PAX DOMINI *(sung or spoken- if the Pastor speaks, the Amen is spoken)*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**A** - men.

### AGNUS DEI



**O** Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

### *Be Seated*

*Hymn(s) are provided for meditation during the distribution of the Lord's supper. Please use hymnal if you prefer to read the text in hymnic form.*

### 421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

*Jesus, grant that balm and healing in Your holy wounds I find.*

*Every hour that I am feeling, pains of body and of mind.*

*Should some evil thought within, tempt my treacherous heart to sin.*

*Show the peril, and from sinning, keep me from its first beginning.*

*If the world my heart entices, with the broad and easy road.  
With seductive sinful vices, let me weigh the awful load.  
You were willing to endure, help me flee all thoughts impure.  
And to master each temptation, calm in prayer and meditation.*

*Should some lust or sharp temptation fascinate my sinful mind.  
Draw me to Your cross and passion, and new courage I shall find.  
Or should Satan press me hard, let me then be on my guard, saying,  
"Christ for me was wounded." That the tempter flee confounded.*

*Every wound that pains or grieves me, by Your wounds, Lord, is made whole.  
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me, granting new life to my soul.  
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet every bitter cup I meet;  
For Your all-atoning passion, has procured my soul's salvation  
O my God, my rock and tower, grant that in Your death I trust.  
Knowing death has lost its power, since You crushed it in the dust.  
Savior, let Your agony, ever help and comfort me;  
When I die be my protection, Light and life and resurrection.*

### 536 One Thing's Needful

*One thing's needful; Lord, this treasure. Teach me highly to regard.  
All else, though it first give pleasure, is a yoke that presses hard!  
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving, No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.  
This one thing is needful; all others are vain— I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!*

*How were Mary's thoughts devoted Her eternal joy to find  
As intent each word she noted, At her Savior's feet reclined!  
How kindled her heart, how devout was its feeling,  
While hearing the lessons that Christ was revealing!  
All earthly concerns she forgot for her Lord And found her contentment in hearing His Word.*

*Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure, Jesus, is revealed in You.  
Let me find in You my pleasure, And my wayward will subdue,  
Humility there and simplicity reigning, In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.  
If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine, The blessing of heavenly wisdom is mine.*

*Nothing have I, Christ, to offer, You alone, my highest good. Nothing have I, Lord, to proffer But  
Your crimson-colored blood. Your death on the cross has death wholly defeated  
And thereby my righteousness fully completed; Salvation's white raiments I there did obtain,  
And in them in glory with You I shall reign.*

*Therefore You alone, my Savior, Shall be all in all to me;*

*Search my heart and my behavior, Root out all hypocrisy.*

*Through all my life's pilgrimage, guard and uphold me, In loving forgiveness, O Jesus, enfold me.*

*This one thing is needful; all others are vain— I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!*

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Stand

**POST COMMUNION HYMN: 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image**



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;

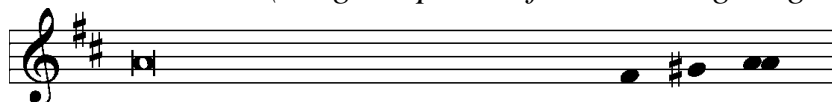


Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,

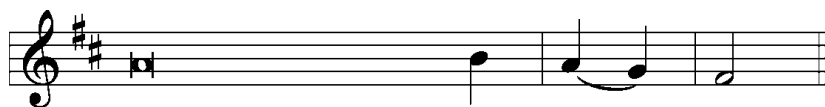


Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

**THANKSGIVING** (*sung or spoken—if the Thanksgiving is spoken the response is spoken*)



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

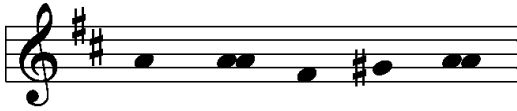
**P** Let us pray.

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 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.



**SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS** (*sung or spoken- if the Salutation/Benedicamus/Benediction is spoken the responses are spoken*)



**P** The Lord be with you.



**R** And with thy spir - it.

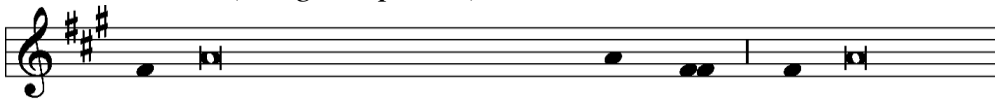


**A** Bless we the Lord.

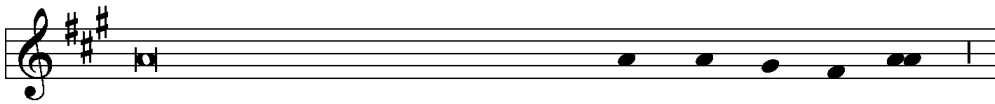


**R** Thanks be to God.

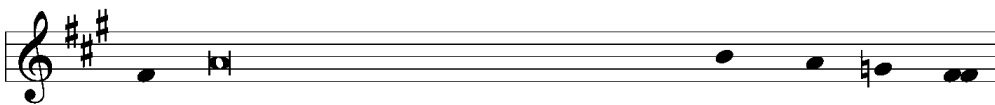
**BENEDICTION** (*sung or spoken*)



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



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



**R** A-men, a-men, a - men.



## CLOSING HYMN: 610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;  
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.  
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.  
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!  
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.  
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

*Go out with Joy & be led forth with Peace*  
ISAIAH 55:12

## ***Lenten Divine Service and Announcements***

Divine service setting three from Lutheran Service Book will be used. The Gloria In Excelsis is omitted during the season of Lent. In place of the traditional Kyrie, the canticle “Your Heart O God is Grieved #945 will be used. This canticle is an expansion of “Kyrie eleison” (Greek for “Lord have mercy”), a phrase that has been used by Christians for thousands of years. The Kyrie has been part of the Ordinary of the Mass with different musical settings used in different places and at different times of the church year. In this three stanza canticle style hymn, the first phrase addresses each of the persons of the Holy Trinity and is chanted by the pastor or cantor. The congregation sings the rest. The common use of this canticle is in place of the traditional Kyrie and when the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.

The closing canticle “Nunc Dimittis” from DS3 will be replaced by the one stanza hymn “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” #422. This is the center stanza of a twenty-nine-stanza Passion hymn, “Bryderfrem, I hule Sukke” by Thomas Kingo (1634-1703). Only this stanza has found continued usage in English. The complete Danish hymn invites people to ponder Christ’s suffering for the sin of the world, to follow on the way to the cross, to see “God’s unspotted Lamb...lifted on the cursed tree.” The stanza before “On my heart imprint Your image.” The hymn refers to the parable of the sower and the seed (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23), with the prayer that riches, cares or pleasures not remove the image of Christ from the believers heart and centers itself on Christ and His crucifixion to save sinners.

### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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