Ash Wednesday + February 14, 2024 C

February Verse of the Month – "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings." – Psalm 36:7

Welcome



Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004541 Tune: Public domain

Invocation

- ightharpoonup In the name of the Father and of the orall Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Opening Sentences

- **P** Let us ever walk with Jesus.
- To see the depths of his love.
- **P** To behold the gift of his forgiveness.
- To gaze upon the heights of his grace.
- **P** To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.
- We walk with Jesus to the City of Jerusalem.
- **P** Because Passover is coming.
- And the Son of Man will be crucified.
- **P** Faithful Lord, with me abide.
- I shall follow where you guide!

Kneel for Confession

Confession and Absolution

- Magnificent and merciful Father, because I walk into dark and dangerous places, hear me as I confess my sins.
- My feet take me to places of compromise and sinful ambition.

- **P** My heart lingers in places of lust and lies.
- My words take me to places of anger, rage and hatred.
- P My ears delight in going to places of gossip, deceit and ridicule.
- My mind takes me to places of selfishness and pride.
- My eyes lead me to places of envy and greed.
- C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!
- P Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That's why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!
- I shall follow where you guide!

Imposition of Ashes

As the ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Ashes symbolize our mourning for our sins. They remind us of the fact that we deserve condemnation. Yet they are also a sign of cleansing and renewal. They point to the gift of forgiveness which God gives to repentant sinners through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Though we are from dust and to dust we shall return, because of Jesus we will rise from the ashes of our death too.

Those who desire to receive ashes on their forehead as a symbol of your repentance may come forward at this time. If you would prefer to have the ashes placed on the back of your hand instead of your forehead, please indicate that by holding out your hand when you receive the ashes.



Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, send forth your Holy Spirit that this Lent we may ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure, through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Exodus 12:1–13

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷"Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle 1 Corinthians 5:6–8

⁶Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Matthew 26:1–5

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, ²"You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

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



As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

There will be an offering plate available on the back pew of the sanctuary. Thank you for your continued generous support of the Lord's work through our congregation.

Prayer of the Church

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

₩ SACRAMENT **₩**

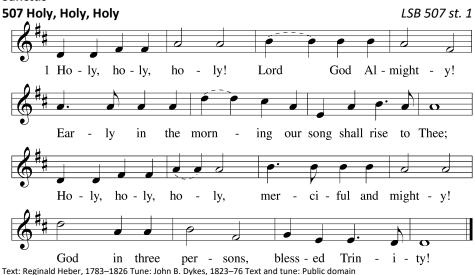
Preface 2 Timothy 4:22

- **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.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

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 became sin for us at the cross, taking away the ashes of our death so that we may be redeemed by His blood and marked by His Spirit. 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



Prayer of Thanksgiving

- Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to perfectly obey Your commands and fully redeem us from sin's curse by becoming a curse for us. In repentance and faith, we receive the salvation He accomplished once and for all by His sacrifice on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we ask You, O Lord, to wash away the ashes of our sin and cleanse us as Your marked and redeemed people. Grant us faithfully to receive our Savior through His body and blood as He invites us to do in this sacred Meal. Hear our prayers; deliver and preserve us. 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.

The Words of Our Lord

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

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

Proclamation of Christ

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

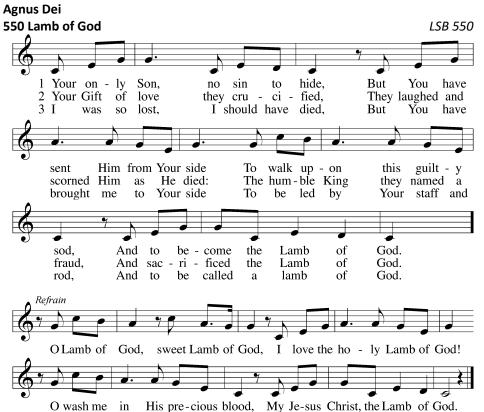
The Lord's Prayer

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.

Pax Domini

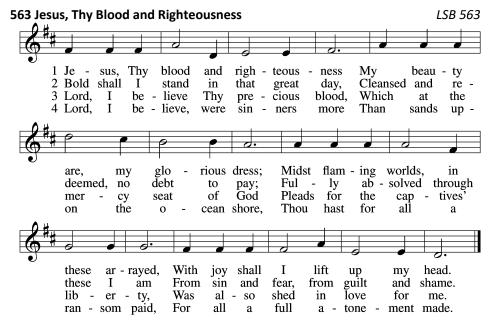
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



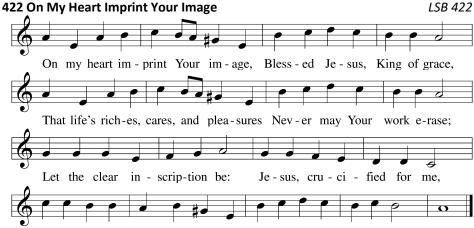
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Distribution Hymns

5:30pm Trinity Choir: "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"



- 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.
- 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.



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

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758 Text and tune: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

O Jesus, Lamb of God, we thank You for refreshing us yet again through Your Word and Sacrament. Assure us by Your Spirit that we have been marked and redeemed by You, the One who was crucified for us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Closing Sentences

- P Jesus invites us to walk with him to Jerusalem, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. And so let us walk with Him all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.
- **C** Let us ever walk with Jesus!

Benediction

- 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 H give you peace.
- C Amen.



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