

ASH WEDNESDAY
March 5, 2025 6:30 pm Worship



CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent’.
He willed the entire life of believers be one of repentance.” *

P: **Repentance consists of contrition,
which is both terror and sorrow over our sin;**

L: and absolution, which is believing that for the sake of Christ,
God Himself, forgives our sins. Therefore, in this Lenten Season let us be honest
about ourselves, confess our sin and receive God’s promise of mercy and grace in
Jesus.

P: **“Lord, to You I make confession:
I have sinned and gone astray,
I have multiplied transgressions,
chosen for myself my way.
Led by You to see my errors,
Lord, I tremble at Your terrors.” ****

L: “Lord, on You we cast our burden, sink them in the deepest sea!
Let us know Your gracious pardon, cleanse us from iniquity.
Let Your Spirit leave us never; make us only Yours forever!” **

P: **“For Your Son has suffered for me,
given Himself to rescue me,
died to save me and restore me,
reconciled and set me free.” ****

L: “Jesus’ cross alone has vanquished all dark fears
and soothed all anguish.” **

In His name and for His sake, I forgive you all your sins.
Go cleansed, restored and renewed to follow and serve Him.

** The First of Luther’s Ninety-Five Theses*

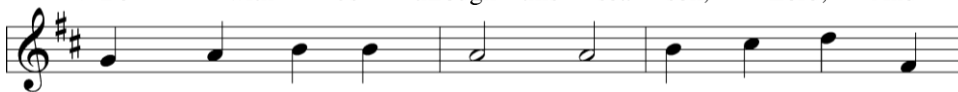
***“Lord, to You I Make Confession” LSB 608 stanzas 1, 3, 4*

OPENING HYMN: "O Lord Throughout These Forty Days"

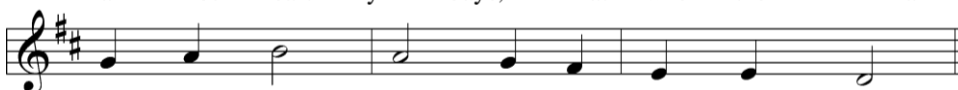
LSB 418



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES: *Follow ushers' directions to the imposition stations.*

(From ancient times God's people have worn ash as a sign of repentance. The custom developed in the early church that when people who had left the fold, desired to return to the flock and commune at Easter they wore an ashen cross throughout the Lenten Season. In this service we receive an ashen cross as a sign of our repentance and a testimony of our desire to be united to Christ and His body the Church. You may choose to receive the ashes on your forehead or the back of your hand. Please indicate your preference by holding out the back side of your hand or holding back your hair. Should you choose to not come up for the imposition of ashes you may remain quietly in your seat for personal confession, meditation and singing.)

HYMNS DURING IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

Verse 1

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Verse 2

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

Verse 3

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

“Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness”

LSB 788



1 For - give us, Lord, for shal - low thank - ful - ness,
2 Teach us to thank You, Lord, for love and grace,
3 For - give us, Lord, for self - ish thanks and praise,
6 O - pen our eyes to see Your love's in - tent,



For dull con - tent with warmth and shel - tered care,
For life and vi - sion, for a pur - pose clear,
For words that speak at var - i - ance with deeds;
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;



For songs of praise for food and har - vest press,
For Christ Your Son, and for each hu - man face
For - give our thanks for walk - ing pleas - ant ways
May thank - ful - ness be days in ser - vice spent,



While of Your rich - er gifts we're un - a - ware:
That shows Your mes - sage ev - er new and near.
Un - mind - ful of a bro - ken broth - er's needs:
Re - flec - tion of Christ's life and love and light.

L: To dust we shall return in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection through our Lord Jesus Christ, for whose sake our God is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives life where there was only death, freedom where there was captivity to guilt and strength to resist temptation and follow Jesus.

P: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT RESPONSIVE READING: *(Based on Joel 2)*

L: Return to the LORD your God. Even now, declares the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.

P: **Return to the LORD your God.**

L: Rend your heart and not your garments.

P: **Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.**

L: He relents from sending calamity.

P: **Return to the LORD your God.**

L: Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing.

P: **Return to the LORD your God.**

L: Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children.

P: **Return to the LORD your God.
Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,
weep between the temple porch and the altar.
Let them say,**

L: Spare your people, O LORD.
Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,
Why should they say among the peoples, Where is their God?

P: **Return to the LORD your God.**

L: Return to the LORD your God.

P: **Return to the LORD your God.
For He is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God. God had Christ, who was sinless, take our sin so that we might receive God's approval through him.

Since we are God's coworkers, we urge you not to let God's kindness be wasted on you. God says,

“At the right time I heard you.
On the day of salvation I helped you.”

Listen, now is God's acceptable time! Now is the day of salvation!

We don't give people any opportunity to find fault with how we serve. Instead, our lives demonstrate that we are God's servants. We have endured many things: suffering, distress, anxiety, beatings, imprisonments, riots, hard work, sleepless nights, and lack of food. People can see our purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives, our sincere love, truthfulness, and the presence of God's power. We demonstrate that we are God's servants as we are praised and dishonored, as we are slandered and honored, and as we use what is right to attack what is wrong and to defend the truth. We are treated as dishonest although we are honest, as unknown although we are well-known, as dying although, as you see, we go on living. We are punished, but we are not killed. People think we are sad although we're always glad, that we're beggars although we make many people spiritually rich, that we have nothing although we possess everything.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: **“To Dust”**
 ~Karen Morrolli

Bethany Choir

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6 & 16-21

“Be careful not to do your good works in public in order to attract attention. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you. So when you give to the poor, don't announce it with trumpet fanfare. This is what hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets in order to be praised by people. I can guarantee this truth: That will be their only reward. When you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your contributions privately. Your Father sees what you do in private. He will reward you.

“When you pray, don't be like hypocrites. They like to stand in synagogues and on street corners to pray so that everyone can see them. I can guarantee this truth: That will be their only reward. When you pray, go to your room and close the door. Pray privately to your Father who is with you. Your Father sees what you do in private. He will reward you.

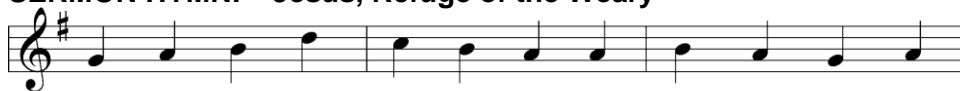
“When you fast, stop looking sad like hypocrites. They put on sad faces to make it obvious that they're fasting. I can guarantee this truth: That will be their only reward. When you fast, wash your face and comb your hair. Then your fasting won't be

obvious. Instead, it will be obvious to your Father who is with you in private. Your Father sees what you do in private. He will reward you.

“Stop storing up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moths and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal. Instead, store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust don’t destroy and thieves don’t break in and steal. Your heart will be where your treasure is.

SERMON HYMN: “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

LSB 423



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our

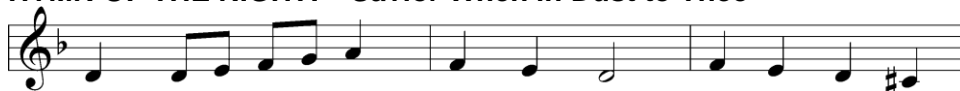


cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

MESSAGE: “Return to the Lord with All Your Heart”

HYMN OF THE NIGHT: "Savior When in Dust to Thee"

LSB 419



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!

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maralee at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:

- L:** On my heart imprint Your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace, that life's riches, cares, and pleasures never may Your work erase;
- P:** **Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me, is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

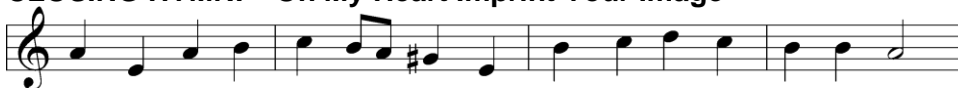
Our Father, Who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING:

- L:** Oh Jesus, our Lord and Master,
P: bring us to a daily remembrance of our baptisms,
where You marked us as Your own,
so that we may die to sin daily
and look to You alone for forgiveness, life, and salvation;
- L:** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. And You will bless Your people, keep them, make Your
face shine upon them and give them Your peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

LSB 422



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-raise;



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!

POSTLUDE

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* *The First of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses*

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"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" *LSB 418*

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930. Tune: *The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1635; setting: *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-706149. Music: Public domain.

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

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"Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" *LSB 788*

Text: William Watkins Reid, Sr., 1890-1983, alt.

Tune: Alfred M. Smith, 1879-1971; setting: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text: ©1965, renewed 1993 The Hymn Society; admin. Hope Publishing Co.

Tune: ©1990 Church of the Ascension, Atlantic City, N.J.; setting: ©1969 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" *LSB 423*

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452-98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826-96, alt.

Tune: *Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz*, Basel, 1745; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

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"Savior, When in Dust to Thee" *LSB 419*

Text: Robert Grant; Tune Joseph Parry. Text and Tune: Public Domain

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image" *LSB 422* Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo; tr. Peer O. Strömme, alt. Public Domain.

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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TONIGHT:

Liturgist...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Preacher...Vicar John Alwood

Director of Music and Worship Arts...Noah Freeman

Accompanist...Kevin Bowers

Sound...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

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If You're a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany's fillable information form.



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Mid-Week Lenten Worship: “The Prophet & the palate”

In both prophetic utterance and descriptive reflection The Prophet, Isaiah, employs meal metaphors when speaking of the rebellion of the Lord’s people and the redemption and deliverance He has worked on their (our) behalf. So that we might again taste and see the goodness of the Lord, this Lent we will gather together, connect over a meal and conversation, and hear the Word of the Lord through the mouth of Isaiah:
The Prophet & the palate.

Wednesday Lenten Worship

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

March 12 - “Good Grapes Planted...bad fruit yielded” - Isaiah 5:1-7

March 19 - “The False Fast vs Factual Fasting” - Isaiah 42:10-21

March 26 - “THE Death Eater” - Isaiah 25:1-7

April 2 - “The Menu: wine, milk and bread” - Isaiah 55:1-7

April 9 - “Belly Up to the Well of Salvation” - Isaiah 12:1-6

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES:

PALM SUNDAY Worship Services

Sunday, April 13 at 8:00 and 9:30 am

MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship Service

Thursday, April 17 at 6:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY Worship Services

Friday, April 18 at 1:00 pm OR 6:30 pm

EASTER FESTIVAL Worship Services

Sunday, April 20 at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

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Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Bullet**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

Bethany Lutheran Church and its Ministries are found at: www.bethanylutheran.org

Bethany Lutheran School information can be found by visiting their website at: www.bethanylutheran.org/school/

Bethany Preschool's website: www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/

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