



Now Is the Time

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

March 5, 2025

THE ORDER OF THE DIVINE SERVICE
ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 5, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.

Welcome to worship at Resurrection Lutheran Church!

Today, we celebrate God's work in our lives, receiving His Word and Sacraments that strengthens our relationship with Him and one another. By the blood of Christ, we are the household of God that He builds up by grace, through faith, and for service!

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

Based on the original verdict for sin spoken by God over Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden ("you are dust and to dust you shall return"), ashes have been adopted by the Christian church as an emblem of our own sinful mortality. As we begin the 40-day period of Lent tonight, we are focusing together on Jesus' own death, for us. God did not spare His only Son but sent Him to our world to suffer, die, and rise again. Jesus' death was an absolute necessity to redeem us from our sin. Christ's death secures our forgiveness; without it, we would be eternally lost. Tonight, we wear the mark of human frailty and mortality together. But just as we are mindful of our sin, we also call to mind God's gift of Holy Baptism, where another crossed is traced over our foreheads to mark each of us "as one redeemed by Christ the crucified." We thank God for sending His only begotten Son for our salvation, that through the cross of Christ we are forgiven and have everlasting life!

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

GREETING

❖ **INVOCATION AND ADMONITION** **LSB 151**
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 Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ we gather here on a solemn, reflective Wednesday to be reminded once again that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. This day also marks the beginning of our journey into the season of Lent as we join Christians around the world who will take these forty days to prepare themselves to observe rightly the horror of our Lord's death and to celebrate the bliss of His resurrection. Each of us will observe the season of Lent in a different way; some will do special devotions, others will practice self-denial, yet others, penitential reflection.

Today let us unite as one in spirit and in truth to receive from God His Word and Sacraments and to return to Him our humble worship and praise.

❖ **HYMN**

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

LSB 915

1. **Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.**
2. **Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n.**
3. **Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.**
4. **O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.**

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CALL TO REPENTANCE

Joel 2:12-19

(We are encouraged to return to the Lord our God, for He is Compassionate.)

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to Me with all your heart, with
fasting, with weeping, and with
mourning; and rend your heart and not
your garments.”

Return to the LORD your God, for He is
gracious and merciful, slow to anger and
abounding in steadfast love; and He

relents over disaster. Who knows whether
He will not turn and relent, and leave a
blessing behind Him, a grain offering and
a drink offering for the LORD your God?
Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a
fast, call a solemn assembly; gather the
people. Consecrate the congregation;

assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and make not Your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say

among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

Then the LORD became jealous for His land and had pity on His people.

The LORD answered and said to His people, "Behold, I am sending you grain, wine and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



VERSE

Return to the Lord, Your God

LSB 157

**Return to the Lord, your God, for He is Gracious and Merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**



CONFESSION OF SINS

P Brothers and sisters:
God created us to experience joy in communion with Him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all His creation.
But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us.
Also, by our sin we grieve our Father who does not desire us to come under His judgment, but to turn to Him and live.
As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from God and neighbor.
Repentance, fasting, prayer and works of love - the discipline of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare.
I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Most Holy and Merciful Father:

C We confess to You and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in Heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed: by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P We have not loved You with our whole heart, mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C Have mercy on us, Lord.

P We have been deaf to Your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved Your Holy Spirit.

C Have mercy on us, Lord.

P For all our past unfaithfulness: our pride, hypocrisy, and the impatience in our lives,
C We confess to You, Lord.

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of others,
C We confess to You, Lord.

P Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
C We confess to You, Lord.

P Our indulgent love of worldly goods and comforts, and our lack of honesty in daily life and work.
C We confess to You, Lord.

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
C We confess to You, Lord.

P Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrong we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering,
C Accept our repentance, Lord.

P For false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
C Accept our repentance, Lord.

P For our waste and pollution of Your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

C Accept our repentance, Lord.

P Restore us, good Lord, and hear us, for Your mercy is great.

C In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Ashes are placed either on your forehead or the back of your hand in the shape of a cross.

As the ashes are placed on you, the pastor or altar assistant shall say:

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

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days – L. C. Shute

Sanctuary Choir

*1. Lord, Who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins,
And close by Thee to stay.*

*2. As Thou didst hunger bear and thirst,
So teach us, Gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live
By Thy most Holy Word.*

*3. And through these days of penitence,
And through Thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death,
Jesus! With us abide.*

Savior, When in Dust to Thee – P. Manz

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy – F. Peeters

❖ PRAYER

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation;

C That we may show forth Your glory in the world.

P By the cross and passion of Your Son, our Lord,

C Bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

P Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You do not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, we implore You to grant us true repentance; and Your Holy Spirit, that

those things which we do on this day may please You, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to Your Eternal Joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

❖ **ABSOLUTION**

P The ashes upon our foreheads declare what is true. Without the forgiveness of our God, we are hopeless. The shape of the ashes upon our foreheads also declares what is true. God sent His Only Son to die in our place. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we have the forgiveness of sins and hope. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

❖ **SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You have heard our cries for mercy and in this, Your favorable time, You have provided us with salvation.

C **Restore in us the joy of Your salvation and give us a willing spirit to trust in You to sustain us. Guide our hearts through these forty days toward purity and renewal so that our treasures may be stored with You in our heavenly home; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

EPISTLE

II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

(In Christ we receive the Righteousness of God.)

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the Power of God; with the

weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

(In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructs us regarding acts of righteousness proceeding from a right heart which stores up treasures in Heaven.)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.”

“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites.

For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others.

Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others.

Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419

- 1. Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!**
- 2. By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears,
By Thy days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour Of the insulting tempter’s pow’r,
Turn, O turn a fav’ring eye; Hear our penitential cry!**
- 3. By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies O’er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh; Hear our penitential cry!**
- 4. By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,
O, from earth to heav’n restored, Mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!**

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❖ CREED *NICENE CREED* LSB 158

C 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,
C begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us 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.

❖ **GREETING OF PEACE**

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3*) Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God’s people will be received directly into the offering plates and through postal mail and electronic giving. Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pads.)

OFFERING OF MUSIC

Bring Low Our Ancient Adam – J. S. Bach

Sanctuary Choir

*Bring low our ancient Adam, then raise us by Your Grace.
Lift up to Life Eternal our fallen human race –
To life that finds its measure, its clarity and pleasure,
In You, Creator God.*

*Creator God, Who made us: all things are in Your Power.
You govern start to finish our every mortal hour.
Draw in our hearts, enfold them – attract our senses, hold them –
Supreme, Transcendent Force.*

❖ **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Father, You have knit our bodies together in wonderful, mysterious ways. Yet, we realize that this beautiful creation is only temporary. Fill our hearts with faith in You, with hope for everlasting life, and with love for one another. For faith, hope, and love are treasures that time cannot decay; treasures whose place in heaven is secured.
Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
P Son of God, with Your death on the cross and Your glorious resurrection You

have given to us the righteousness of God and a hope that is sure. We ask on behalf of the entire Christian Church that You grant Your Church a resolute faith in You, an unswerving dedication to the truth of Your Word, and an undying desire to evangelize the lost. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Spirit, by Your Power we have faith. Yet sin continues to chip away at us, ever urging us to deny the faith so freely given to us by You.

Create in us clean hearts, continually renewing us in faith, hope, and love. Fill us so full that our cup overflows upon those around us. And by Your Word give the faith You have so graciously given us to those who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Jesus, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

❖ **LORD'S PRAYER**

LSB 162

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
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Service will resume shortly.

MUSIC DURING THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Renew Me, O Eternal Light

LSB 704

1. **Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from Your holy face.**
2. **Remove the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.**
3. **Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.**
4. **Grant that I only You may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face, O Light eternal, through Your grace.**

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The Lamb

LSB 547

1. **The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price! *Refrain***

Refrain

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is
reigning on His throne!**

2. **The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. *Refrain***
3. **The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. *Refrain***

4. **He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.**
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. *Refrain*
5. **He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.**
His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. *Refrain*

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O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

LSB 418

1. **O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;**
Inspire repentance for our sin, And free us from our past.
2. **You strove with Satan, and You won; Your faithfulness endured;**
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust In God's eternal Word.
3. **Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed And fixed Your mind above;**
So teach us to deny ourselves, Since we have known God's love.
4. **Be with us through this season, Lord, And all our earthly days,**
That when the final Easter dawns, We join in heaven's praise.

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❖ **BENEDICTION**

LSB 166

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
 The LORD make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father,
 and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The congregation departs in silence

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Acknowledgments

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Servants in Worship

Preacher	Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
Presiding Minister.....	Rev. Zach Sarrault
Assisting Minister	Rev. Alan Shaw
Organist/Pianist/Director	Robert E. Unger
Lector	Rosie Spangenberg
Greeters.....	Suzi Heffner
Ushers.....	Dara Linn, Tom Gebbia
Worship Assistant.....	Suzi Heffner
Altar Care.....	Dara Linn

Lenten Offerings

Offerings received during the Lenten Midweek Worship Services this year will go to support two entities: Manna Food Bank and Inter-faith Food Shuttle.

Please place your offerings in the specially marked offering envelopes or denote "Lenten Offerings" on your check. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these important charities and ministries.

Manna Food Bank

Manna Foodbank is located in Asheville, NC. Founded in 1982, Manna Foodbank is a private, not-for-profit service organization working to end food insecurity in the 16 counties of Western NC, including the Qualla Boundary. This group was hit hard by Hurricane Helene losing their warehouse and all the food stored there. Our donation will go a long way to help them rebuild and feed our friends impacted by the storm. mannafoodbank.org

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle states their mission is "To feed our neighbors, teach self-sufficiency, and grow healthy foods by cultivating innovative approaches to end hunger." They provide shelf stable food through their pantry, have onsite gardens and administer the BackPack Buddies program which sends food home with food insecure school children on the weekends. foodshuttle.org



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