

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*(Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)*  
**LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**  
**February 18, 2015**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH**

Gracious and merciful God and Lord, You bid me to rend my heart and return to You. Through Your perfect Law I am shown my sin which separates me from You and does harm to my neighbor. It shows me my need to be truly contrite and repent of my sins. Through Your Gospel I am shown Your forgiveness and the perfect righteousness that You freely give to me through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Guide and direct me throughout this penitential season of Lent. Strengthen me in my faith toward You and in my love toward my neighbor. Further empower me to be forgiving, for You have graciously forgiven me. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

**WELCOME**

**Welcome** to this Divine Service. We observe Ash Wednesday today and thereby begin our yearly pilgrimage to the cross and there behold the great love the Father has for us as He sent His only Son to be the once and for all sacrifice for our sins. May this Season of Lent be for you an opportunity to rejoice in your Baptisms, grow in your faith, and further grow in your love for and service to the Lord as well as your neighbor.

**As We Gather** this evening we begin a Lenten Series using some of the Parables spoken by Jesus to convey a heavenly truth by using an earthly story. Jesus used this figure of speech many times throughout His ministry. When asked by His disciples why He spoke in parables, Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand." (Matthew 13:10-13) Faith sees, hears and understands that Jesus is our Redeemer, who by His blood has set us free from sin and thereby given us the kingdom of heaven.

This evening we will hear Jesus' Parable about the Pharisee and the tax collector. The tax collector who repents goes home justified, while the proud Pharisee, convinced of his own righteousness, does not. As you go home this evening, know by faith that you are justified!

**HOLY COMMUNION**

Tonight we celebrate the Lord's Supper. In this Sacrament we receive the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. If you are not a member of Grace Congregation we ask that you first speak with our Pastor so that the unity of faith may be established. Thank you for honoring this request. For preparation for reception of the Sacrament see Lutheran Service Book (LSB) pages 329-330.

# THE ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

## Prelude

*I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ [BWV 639] - J.S. Bach*

## Ringing of the Church Bell

*Please rise and face the processional cross.*

## Processional Hymn: In Adam We Have All Been One

LSB 569

## Confession and Absolution

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

## Invocation

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

## Pastoral 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.

## Exhortation

*Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5*

- 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.*

## Confession of Sins

- 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.**

*John 20:19–23*

- 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**

## Psalm

Psalm 51:1–5, 9, 12

**Service Note:** *The first time the choir sings the Antiphon, repeated immediately by the congregation. Thereafter the congregation sings the Antiphon.*

### Antiphon



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.  
Wash away all my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

### Antiphon

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.  
Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.  
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquity.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  
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.

### Antiphon

## The 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** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;

From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;

From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;

From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

**C** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

**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 rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**P** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; 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

## Service of the Word

### Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



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



**P** Let us pray.

**P** 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** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Joel 2:12–19*

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
and rend your hearts 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 to you  
 grain, wine, and oil,  
 and you will be satisfied;  
 and I will no more make you  
 a reproach among the nations.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Heb. 12:2*



[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*

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. 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;



[Jesus said:] “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 be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**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, 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**

*Sit*

**Sermon Hymn: We Listen as the Word**

*Tune: SOUTHWELL (LSB 431)*



1. We lis - ten as the Word like scat - tered seed is sown,  
2. The tax man prays a - lone, the Phar - i - see with pride.  
3. In ev - 'ry time of need, be - fore the judg - ment throne,



For as each par - a - ble is heard Christ's king - dom is made known.  
Which prayer is heard be - fore the throne? Which man is just - i - fied?  
Your work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, your mer - its, not my own.

**Sermon**

**Luke 18:9-14**

***“Receive Justification: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector”***

**Offertory**

*Psalm 51:10–12*

**Service Note:** *The Choir will sing the Offertory.*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

**Offering**

*We Listen as the Word - Theodore Beck*

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Each petition ends with the following:*

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

*The prayers conclude with the following:*

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**C** Amen

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

*2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1 Psalm 136*



**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.



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

## Proper Preface

**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

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**G** 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

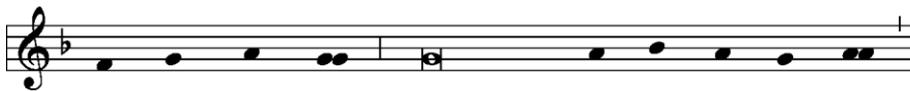
Matthew 6:9-13



Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who



tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to



temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.



For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

# The Words of Our Lord

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



**P** Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis-ci-ples and said: “Take, eat; this is My <sup>†</sup>bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



This do in re-mem - brance of Me.” In the same way al - so



He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it



to them, say - ing: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in



My <sup>†</sup> blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me.”

Pax Domini

John 20:19



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



**G** A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



**G** 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.

Sit

## Distribution

**Communion Instructions:** The Pastor invites the communicants, those who are able, to kneel and then distributes the host which may be received into the hand or the mouth. The Elder distributes the individual cups. The communicants are asked to hold their cups until the Pastor says, "Take and drink."

**Hymn: Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness**

**LSB 636 sts. 1-4**

*Service Note: There will be an organ interlude between Stanzas 4 & 5.*

**Hymn: Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness**

**LSB 636 sts. 5-8**

**Hymn: What Wondrous Love Is This**

**LSB 543**

*Stand*

## Nunc Dimittis

*Luke 2:29-32*

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 ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

*Psalm 107:1*

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

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

## Post-Communion Collect

**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** A - men.

## Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*



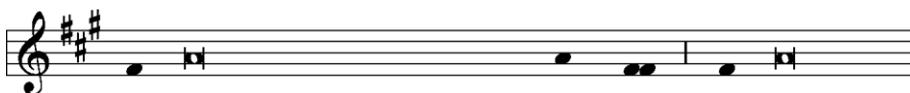
**A** Bless we the Lord.



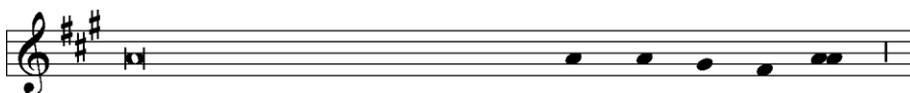
**B** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*



**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.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Recessional Hymn: O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

**LSB 418**

## Postlude

*O Lord, throughout These Forty Days - Wayne L. Wold*



## Acknowledgments

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## THOSE WHO SERVE

Pastor:	Rev. James C. Walter
Director of Parish Music:	Nathan Beethe
Acolyte:	Anna Kate Manchester
Crucifer:	Jack Manchester
Communion Assistant:	Robert Nichols
Choir:	Adult Choir
Clarinet:	Randy Middaugh
Violin:	Christopher Sonntag
Ushers:	Terry Bradshaw, Gary Goldsby, Jim Marvin
Altar Guild:	Suzanne Raddle and Wilma Richter
Nursery Attendant:	Mary Ann Dyer

Our thanks to the Board of Parish Fellowship for serving the Lenten dinner this evening.