

# THE GOOD NEWS OF A SAVIOR WHO COVERS OUR SIN

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

## AS WE GATHER

The season of the Church Year that starts with Ash Wednesday is known by differing terms in various nations. The official term that dates back to the sixth century AD is Quadragesima, from the Latin word for “fortieth.” This term is carried forward in Latin-based languages such as Spanish (*cuaresma*) and Italian (*Quaresima*). Central Europeans reflect the self-denial aspect of the Lenten time using the term *Fastenzeit* (fasting time) in Germany and *Nagy-bost* (great fast) in Hungary. That naming tradition is also kept in Arabic-speaking countries, where the term *Sawm al-Kabir* (big fast) is used. Northern Europeans and related countries refer to the season of the year, relating back to the old Anglo-Saxon word *Lengten-tide* (springtime), which described when the days lengthened light-wise. Although the terms for the forty days of Lent may differ, the spiritual importance of “the forty” remains constant and powerful. May keeping this time of penance and prayer with “sincerity and truth” (1 Corinthians 5:8) lead us to observe a blessed and holy Lent!

## HYMN #606

“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;  
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;  
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.  
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.  
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains  
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;  
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.  
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.  
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

## INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

## PSALM

*Psalm 51*

**P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**C** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

**P** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**C** Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

**P** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**C** Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

**P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**C** Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.

**P** Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**P** Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

**C** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**P** Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

**C** Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness.

**P** O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**C** For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

**P** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

- C** Do good to Zion in Your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- P** then will You delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.
- C** 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.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**HYMN #609**

*“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”*



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich  
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that



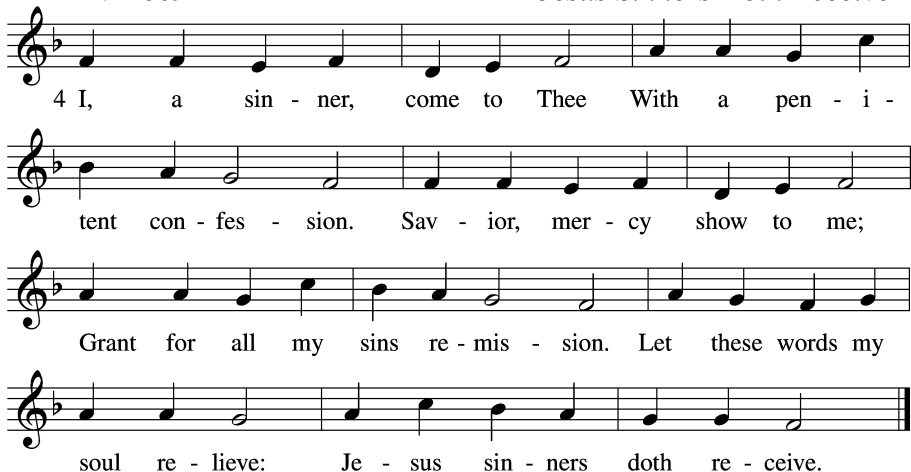
all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756  
 Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt

- P** Let us now confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness. We use the words of verse 4 to confess our sins.

## HYMN #609

## "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"



4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -  
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;  
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my  
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756

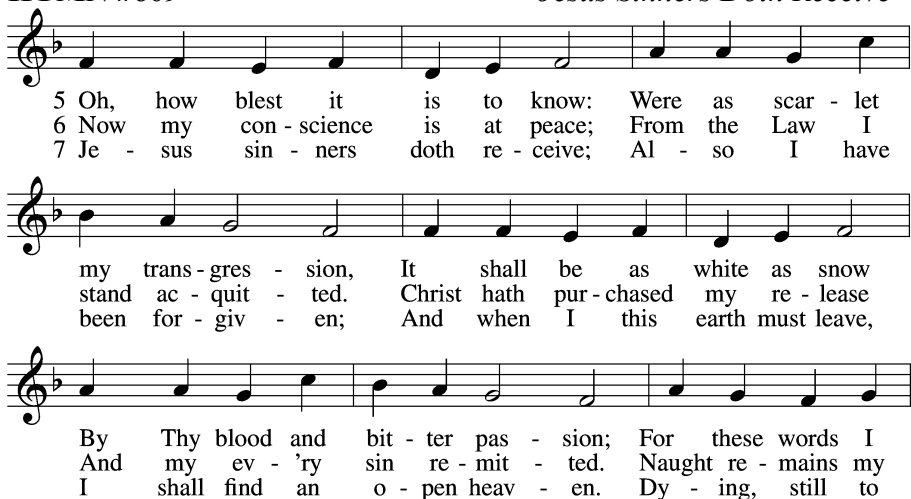
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt

**P** God has promised to hear the penitent cries of His people and for the sake of Jesus, our Savior, grants remission of sins. 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.

## HYMN #609

## "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"



5 Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scar - let  
6 Now my con - science is at peace; From the Law I  
7 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Al - so I have  
my trans - gres - sion, It shall be as white as snow  
stand ac - quit - ted. Christ hath pur - chased my re - lease  
been for - giv - en; And when I this earth must leave,  
By Thy blood and bit - ter pas - sion; For these words I  
And my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re - mains my  
I shall find an o - pen heav - en. Dy - ing, still to



now be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
Him I cleave: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756  
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious and merciful God, You forgive the sins of all who come to You with penitent and contrite hearts. Grant us the spirit of true repentance to acknowledge our sins and to find in You forgiveness and restoration, wholeness, and peace; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN INTRODUCTION

**P** The season of Lent as a time of prayer, fasting, and repentance has a long history in the Christian Church. All the way back in the year AD 325, a document from the Council of Nicaea set forth a forty-day period leading up to Holy Week and Easter as a time of special devotion. The hymn “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” recalls the time Jesus went without food in the wilderness prior to His temptation by Satan. Through the words of the hymn, we pray that our observance of a holy Lent would reflect the sacrificial love and determination of our Savior as He carried out God’s gracious plan of salvation for us.

**L** The text of this hymn for Ash Wednesday was written by American Lutheran hymn writer Gilbert Doan in the twentieth century as a paraphrase of a Lenten hymn for children written by Claudia Hernaman, an English author of more than 150 hymn texts in the previous century. Although it may have initially been directed at young people, its closing stanza serves as a prayer for people of every age, that the Lord would be with us during this time of spiritual observance and sustain us until we come to the joys of the eternal Easter celebration. The tune to which the hymn is now sung is from seventeenth-century Scotland.

**HYMN #418***“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”*

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.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930–2024 Tune: The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635, Edinburgh Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003072

**READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE****OLD TESTAMENT READING****Genesis 3:1-13, 21**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves

from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”...

And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL**

**Hebrews 12:2**

**L** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

**C** **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**EPISTLE**

**2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10**

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.

**VERSE**

**Joel 2:13b**

**C** Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 18:9–14**

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter.

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

[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

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

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

**HYMN #572**

*"In the Shattered Bliss of Eden"*

In the shattered bliss of Eden

Dawned the day of sacrifice,  
As our primal parents shuddered—  
Sin had caused this dreadful price!  
Faith embarked with this discernment:  
Only God can cover sin,  
As He took their leafy garments  
And He clothed their shame with skin.

Days and months and years unfolding  
Clearly showed what sin had wrought:  
Fallen Adam's children learning  
Lessons fallen parents taught.



All these sacrificial off' rings  
Crested as a crimson flood:  
Patriarchs and priests atoning  
For their sins with cleansing blood.

What these sacrifices promised  
From a God who sought to bless,  
Came at last—a second Adam—  
Priest and King of Righteousness:  
Son of God, incarnate Savior,  
Son of Man, both Christ and Lord,  
Who in naked shame would offer  
On the cross His blood outpoured.

Lamb of God, once slain for sinners,  
Host, who spreads this meal divine,  
Here You pledge our sins are covered,  
Pledge received in bread and wine:  
“Take and eat; this is My body,  
Given on the cross for you.  
Take and drink; this cup of blessing  
Is My blood poured out for you.”

Taste and see the bliss of heaven  
Known by saints around the throne,  
Where the Lamb, in closest union,  
Lives to love and feed His own.  
From His riven side forever  
Flows the purest stream of love,  
Love that robes us with the raiment  
Worn by all who feast above.

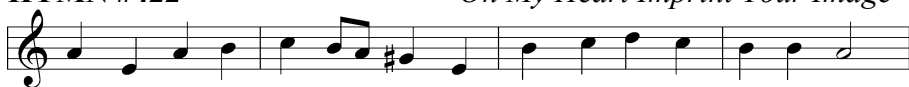
Gone the bliss of Eden's garden,  
Gone the age of sacrifice;  
Ours the time of grace and favor,  
Ours the call to paradise!  
Ever, Lord, impress upon us:  
Only You can cover sin—  
Take our worthless, self-made garments;  
Clothe our shame and cleanse within.

## SERMON “The Good News of a Savior Who Covers Sin”

Genesis 3:1-13, 21

### 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-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!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

## OFFERING

### PRAYER AND THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

**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.

### 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** 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** 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.

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

**HYMN #570**

*"Just as I Am, without One Plea"*



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my  
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a  
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

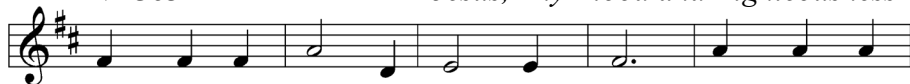
Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 Because Thy promise I believe,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68

**HYMN #563**

*"Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"*



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty  
 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -  
 3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the  
 4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in  
 deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through  
 mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives,  
 on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.  
 these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.  
 lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.  
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

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.

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,  
 Whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
 For me, and all Thy hands have made,  
 An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

**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.**

## CLOSING COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, we beseech You to grant us true repentance and Your Holy Spirit, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy and that at the last we may come to Your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P** 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 ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN #878

*"Abide with Me"*



1 A - bid with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,  
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid.  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.  
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bid with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bid with me.  
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bid with me.  
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bid with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Pick up a Lenten Devotion book in the narthex.

Soup & Sandwich Supper will be held each Wednesday from 6:00 to 6:45 PM. Thank you to ACT for serving this week.

Take out your passion wood cutting and/or Lenten cross and objects, if you have them, as part of your daily Lenten meditation. Or find other ways to decorate your house for Lent.

Consider doing a Lenten fast. There are two types of fasts. One is to give up something for the 40 days of lent until Easter. (Certain foods like dessert, candy, pop or meat or certain time wasters like TV or web browsing would be examples.) The other kind of fast is to commit to doing something extra in response to what Jesus did for you. (Doing a good deed each day or each week or spending more time in God's Word and prayer would be examples.)

The Library Used Book Sale is going on during Lent. Books are available for a freewill donation.

ACT Envelope Fundraiser is taking place now. Take an envelope and support our youth. Funds will help them attend the youth gathering this summer.

ACT is also doing a frozen pizza fundraiser. Order at the narthex counter by next Wednesday.

Footcare is tomorrow from 9-11 AM. All are welcome.

LWML meets tomorrow at 1 PM. All women are invited for Bible Study at 2 PM, followed by lunch.

Information on a tour of St Johns Bible and Monastery on March 14 is available at the narthex counter. If you are planning to go, or would like a ride, let pastor know.

Singles Share and Care Day will be Friday, March 21 at 1:30 PM. There will be a devotion, time for sharing and visiting, a short activity and refreshments. Anyone wanting to bring a snack item is welcome to do so. All singles are welcome.