



Ash Wednesday Worship
February 22, 2023


The Order of Worship

Welcome

Opening Praise

“O Gracious Light”

Christian Worship: Evening Prayer



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, In you the
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth; The lamps are
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of

Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
God, life - giv - ing Lord; Where - fore you are through

blest is he, And blest are you, his on - ly Son.
Spir - it: God Who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth And in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the world;

C: The Light no darkness can overcome.

P: Stay with us, for it is evening;

C: And the day is almost over.

P: Let your light scatter the darkness of sin and death;

C: Let it shine in our hearts and lives. Amen.

Opening Prayer

P: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and purify our hearts with your forgiving love in Jesus, our Savior. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in light of your presence while we pass through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: God the Father, God the God the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Response

“Let My Prayer Rise Before You”
Christian Worship: Evening Prayer

C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing
up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and ends with a fermata over the word 'cense'. The second staff ends with a fermata over 'fice'. The third staff ends with a fermata over 'I'. The fourth staff ends with a fermata over 'cense'. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line and a fermata over 'fice'.

P: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight, O Lord. Come and help us in our time of need that we may sing of praise in holy joy now, and forever through Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

Evening Litany

The Fifth Petition
*Excerpts from Luther's Large Catechism
Readers Edition, Concordia Publishing House*

P: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. This petition now applies to our poor miserable life. Although we have and believe God's Word, do and submit to His will, and are supported by His gifts and blessings, our life is still not sinless.

C: Indeed I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my sinful flesh. The desire to do good is present with me, but I am not able to carry it out. So I fail to do the good I want to do. Instead, the evil I do not want to do, that is what I keep doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me. *Romans 7:18-20*

P: We stumble daily and transgress because we live in the world among people. They do us much harm and give us reason for impatience, anger, revenge, and such. Besides we have the devil at our back. He attacks us from every side and fights—as we have heard—against all the previous petitions. So it is not possible to stand firm at all times in such a constant conflict.

C: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us. *1 John 1:8-10*

P: The flesh in which we daily live is of such a nature that it neither trusts nor believes God. It is ever active in evil lusts and devices, so that we sin daily in word and deed, by what we do and fail to do. By this the conscience is thrown into unrest, so that it is afraid of God's wrath and displeasure. So it loses the comfort and confidence derived from the Gospel.

C: There is no one who is righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands. There is no one who searches for God. They all turned away; together they became useless. There is no one who does what is good; there is not even one. The way of peace they did not know. There is no fear of God in front of their eyes—no one will be declared righteous in his sight by the works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin. *Romans 3, selected verses*

P: It is, therefore, the intent of this petition that God would not

regard our sins and hold up to us what we daily deserve. But we pray that He would deal graciously with us and forgive, as He has promised, and so grant us a joyful and confident conscience to stand before him in prayer. Such a confident and joyful heart can spring from nothing else than the certain knowledge of the forgiveness of sin.

C: I sought the LORD, and he answered me. From all my terrors he delivered me. His people look to him and are radiant, and their faces will never blush. This poor one called, and the LORD heard. From all my distress the LORD saved me. Taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed is everyone who takes refuge in him. *Psalm 34:1-6, 8*

Sung Response

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”
Christian Worship 129 st.1-2, 5

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away —
'Tis all that I can do.

The Lessons from God's Word

*“The law is only a shadow of the good things to come,
not the actual realization of those things.”*

The Prophecy of the Savior

Isaiah 59:12-20

- ¹²Yes, our rebellious deeds are many before you,
and our sins testify against us.
Our rebellious deeds are with us,
and as for our guilty deeds, we are aware of them.
- ¹³Those deeds are rebellion and treachery against the LORD.
We turn back from following our God.
We incite oppression and apostasy.
We conceive and mutter deceitful words from our hearts.
- ¹⁴Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away,
for truth stumbles in the city square,
and honesty cannot enter it.
- ¹⁵The truth is missing, and anyone who turns
from evil makes himself prey.
The LORD looked and saw something evil—
there was no justice.
- ¹⁶He saw that there was no one. He was appalled that there
was no one who could intervene.
So his own arm worked salvation for him,
and his own righteousness supported him.
- ¹⁷He clothed himself with righteousness like armor
and wore a helmet of salvation on his head.
He dressed in garments for vengeance,
and he wrapped himself with zeal like a cloak.
- ¹⁸He will repay in full what they have earned,
namely, wrath to his foes and full payment to his enemies.
He will repay even the distant coastlands.
- ¹⁹From the west they will fear the LORD's name,
and from the rising of the sun they will fear his glory,
for he will come like a raging river,
driven by the Spirit of the LORD.
- ²⁰Then a redeemer will come for Zion
and for those in Jacob who turn from rebellion.
This is the declaration of the LORD.



Psalm Response

Psalm 51:10-12

C: Create in me a pure heart, O God. Renew an unwavering spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence. Do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation. Sustain me with a willing spirit.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 7:8–13a

⁸For even if I caused you sorrow with my letter, I do not regret it (even though I did regret it, for I see that my letter caused you sorrow—yet only for a little while). ⁹Now I rejoice, not because you were made to feel sorrow, but because this sorrow resulted in repentance. Yes, you were made sorry in a godly way. So you were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰In fact, godly sorrow produces repentance, which leads to salvation, leaving no regret. On the other hand, worldly sorrow produces death.

¹¹Yes, look what godly sorrow produced in you: what diligence, what eagerness to clear yourself, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what correction! In every way you proved yourselves to be pure in this matter. ¹²So although I wrote to you, it was not because of the one who did what was wrong, or because of the one who was harmed by it. I wrote instead so that your genuine concern for us would be revealed to you in the sight of God. ¹³For that reason we have been comforted.

Psalm Response

Psalm 51:15-17

C: Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you do not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices God wants are a broken spirit. A broken and crushed heart, O God, you will not despise.

Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

“Be careful that you do not do your righteous works in front of people, so that they will notice. If you do, you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²So whenever you perform

acts of mercy, do not sound a trumpet for yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets to be praised by people. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward.³ Instead, when you perform acts of mercy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.⁴ Then your acts of mercy will be in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

⁵“Whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by people. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward.⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your private room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what others cannot see, will reward you.

“Whenever you fast, do not make yourself look sad like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show everyone that they are fasting. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward.¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,¹⁸ so that it is not apparent to people that you are fasting, but only to your Father who sees what is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.²⁰ But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Prayer for the Blessing of the Word

P: Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here, and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen!

Hymn of the Day

“In the Hour of Trial”
Christian Worship 116

In the hour of trial, Jesus plead for me
Lest by base denial I unworthy be.
When you see me waver, with a look recall,
Nor for fear or favor, ever let me fall.

With forbidden pleasures should this vain world charm
Or its tempting treasures spread to work me harm,
Bring to my remembrance sad Gethsemane
Or, in darker semblance, cross-crowned Calvary.

Should your mercy send me sorrow, toil, or woe,
Or should pain attend me on my path below,
Grant that I may never, fail your cross to view;
Grant that I may ever cast my care on you.

When my life in ending, though in grief and pain,
When my body changes back to dust again,
On your truth relying, through that mortal strife,
Jesus take me, dying, to eternal life.

Sermon

Luke 22:31-34

³¹The Lord said, “Simon, Simon, pay attention: Satan has asked to have you all, so that he may sift you as wheat. ³²But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brothers.”

³³He said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!”

³⁴But Jesus replied, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you deny three times that you know me.”

The Impassioned Prayers of the Passion _____

“I Have Prayed for You!”

A Prayer for Peter’s Faithfulness

A Prayer for Our Faithfulness

The Confession of our Christian Faith:

*(We unite in the words of Luther's Explanation
to the Second Article of the Apostles Creed)*

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Prayer and Praise

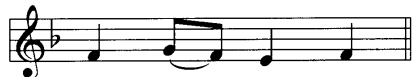
Evening Prayer

P: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord;



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Do not deal with us according to your justice. We have left undone what you have commanded us to do. We have pursued the very things you have commanded us not to do. At the end of this day, remove the burden of our guilt and release us from your righteous wrath. In our weakness, we implore you:



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

P: Pour out you undeserved love upon your Church and your people. Strengthen our faith. Make us willing to serve. Free us from the devil's deceptions, the world's distractions, and the weakness of our sinful flesh. This night, and every night, rule over all things for our good:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Send us your holy angels to keep us safe from harm and danger. Help us realize they are your faithful servants who serve according to your will. Let our faith always be centered in you and in your gracious promises. Because you are our Refuge and Strength, we plead:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For every needed blessing for body and soul. For every good and perfect gift that flows freely from your love. For the powerful working of your Gospel in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. And for the wisdom to acknowledge you as the true God and our God, we humbly ask:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: In your compassion you invite us to pray. In your undeserved love you answer all of them for our good. In your never-failing care you support us in good times, as you do in times of need. For this, and every blessing, we rejoice:



C: Thanks be to God.

P: In humble thanks and faithful devotion, we commend ourselves into your loving care. Never let us be shaken, nor let us ever fail to put our complete trust in you—our Lord, our God and our Savior:



C: A - - - men!

The Lord's Prayer:

(the congregation will join with the pastor)

C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen!

Closing Praise

Song of Simeon



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part



ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen

your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry
 peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
 and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

The Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God the Father,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit -
 be with you all.

C: A - men.

Closing Hymn

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”
Christian Worship 333

Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with your grace
 That Satan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with your Word
 And thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.

Abide with heav'nly brightness among us, precious Light;
 Your truth direct and keep us from error's gloomy night.

Abide with richest blessings among us, bounteous Lord;
 Let us in grace and wisdom grow daily through your Word.

Abide with your protection among us, Lord, our Strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us and overcome at length.

Abide, O faith Savior, among us with your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us to reach our home above.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Tonight—In our faithful Savior’s name ***WELCOME*** to our mid-week Lenten worship! May the blessing which comes from the precious work of Jesus Christ, give you the peace of God which surpasses all understanding and which guards our hearts and minds through faith.

Friday—Office hours from 10:30—2:30 pm

Sunday, February 26th—In-person Worship and Live-Streaming at 9:30 am.

Thank You

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Acknowledgements

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