

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

March 2, 2022



Calvary Lutheran Church and School
9807 Church Road, Dallas, TX 75238
www.calvarydallas.org

OPENING HYMN

538 – Jesus, My Great High Priest



1 Je - sus, my great High Priest, of - fered his blood and
2 To Christ, my sub - sti - tute, will I com - mit my
3 My ad - vo - cate ap - pears for my de - fense on
4 Should all the hosts of death and pow'rs of hell un -



died; my guilt - y con - science seeks no sac - ri -
cause; he an - swers and ful - fills his Fa - ther's
high; a gra - cious Fa - ther hears and lays his
known put their most dread - ful forms of rage and



fice be - side. His pow'r - ful blood did once a -
bro - ken laws. Be - hold my soul at free - dom
thun - der by. Not all that hell or sin can
mis - chief on, I shall be safe, for Christ dis -



tone, and now it pleads be - fore the throne.
set - my Je - sus paid the dread - ful debt!
say shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.
plays su - pe - rior pow'r and guard - ian grace.

✠ Ash Wednesday Confessional Rite ✠

INVOCATION

STAND

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Silence for meditation and reflection

INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in fellowship with him, to love all people, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the forty days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

Let us confess our sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit ourselves to this struggle.

CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful Father,

**We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault,
by our own grievous fault
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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 the Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have placed our wants before your will.

We have gratified the desires of our sinful nature.

We have merited your punishment now and forever.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives
We confess to you, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people, our anger when
our selfish aims are denied, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves
We confess to you, O Lord.

Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, our
negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us
We confess to you, O Lord.

Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and
suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Forgive us, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and
contempt for those who differ from us,
Forgive us, Lord.

For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,
Forgive us, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

SENTENCES

Accomplish in us, Lord, the work of your salvation
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and suffering of your Son,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but
rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He sent his Son to be the atoning
sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of
Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
† Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BE SEATED

PSALM

Psalm 51 - Have Mercy in Your Goodness, O Lord

Sung by the cantor

Refrain

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

*Have mercy in your goodness, Lord, and in your grace forgive my sin;
Wash me from evil through and through, cleanse me, O Lord, without, within.*

*All my transgressions, Lord, I know; I see my sin both day and night;
Against you only have I sinned, done what is evil in your sight.*

Refrain

*So when you speak, Lord, it is just; your judgments all reveal the truth;
I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner even from my youth.*

*For deep within you look for truth; in secret make me understand;
Purge out my sin and I shall be pure as your holy law demands.*

Refrain

*Tell me of joy and gladness, Lord, and give my broken body ease;
Lord, hide your face from all my sin; blot out all my iniquities.*

Refrain

PSALM PRAYER

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 hereafter; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✘ The Word ✘

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 12:1-13

So that he might appear righteous to Israel, King David hid his sin of adultery by committing another sin, murder. The Lord calls King David to repentance through the prophet Nathan.

² SAMUEL 12:1 The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³ but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴ “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

⁵ David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! ⁶ He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

⁷ Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹ Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

¹¹ “This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. ¹² You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’ “

¹³ Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

There is urgency in God's call to repent. The time is now.

² CORINTHIANS 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1} As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says,

“In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

STAND FOR THE READING OF THE GOSPEL

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus tells a parable about what makes us righteous in God's eyes, not trust in one's own goodness, but trust in God's great mercy.

LUKE 18:9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

BE SEATED





1 His robes for mine: O won - der - ful ex - change!
 2 His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?
 3 His robes for mine: God's jus - tice is ap - peased.
 4 His robes for mine: such an - guish none can know.



Clothed in my sin, Christ suf - fered 'neath God's rage.
 God's daunt - ing law Christ mas - tered in my stead.
 Je - sus is crushed, and thus the Fa - ther's pleased.
 Christ, God's be - loved, con - demned as though his foe.



Draped in his right - eous - ness, I'm jus - ti - fied.
 Fault - less I stand with right - eous works not mine,
 Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried, "'Tis done!"
 He, as though I, ac - cursed and left a - lone;



In Christ I live, for in my place he died.
 saved by my Lord's vi - car - ious death and life.
 Sin's wage is paid, pro - pi - ti - a - tion won.
 I, as though he, em - braced and wel - comed home!



Refrain
 I cling to Christ, and mar - vel at the cost:



Je - sus for - sak - en, God es - tranged from God.



Bought by such love, my life is not my own.



My praise— my all— shall be for Christ a - lone.

✠ Sermon ✠

Matthew 26:18

“I Will Keep the Passover”

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MUSICAL OFFERING

We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.

Offerings can be given in any of four ways:

- Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary
- On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>
- On your phone with the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app
- Scan the QR code to the right...



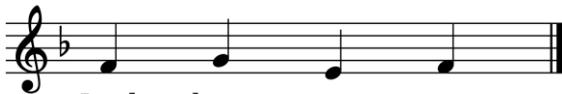
Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card. The Connection Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website, <https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the code to the left...

STAND

LORD, HAVE MERCY



In peace let us pray to the Lord:



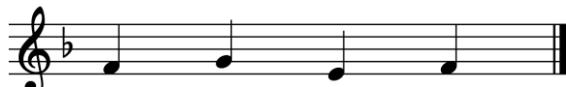
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:



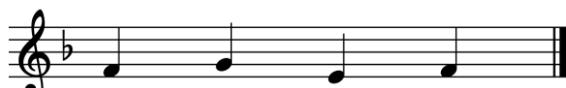
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:



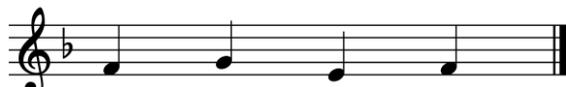
Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:



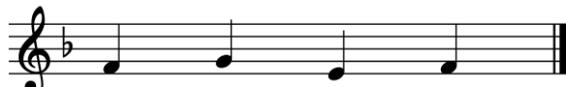
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:



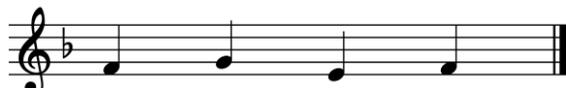
Lord, have mer - cy.

For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:



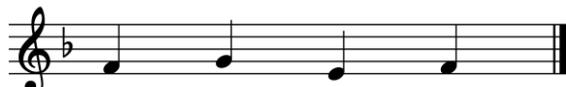
Lord, have mer - cy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:



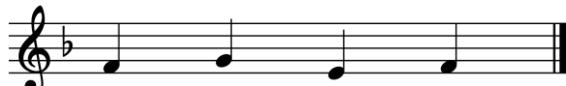
Lord, have mer - cy.

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:



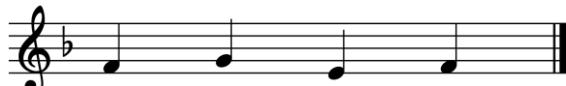
Lord, have mer - cy.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:



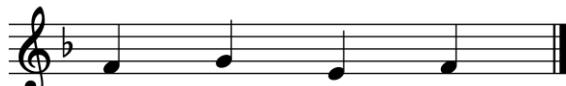
Lord, have mer - cy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:



Lord, have mer - cy.

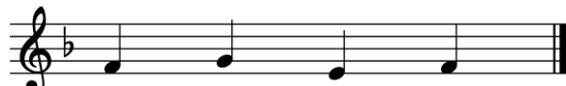
For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:



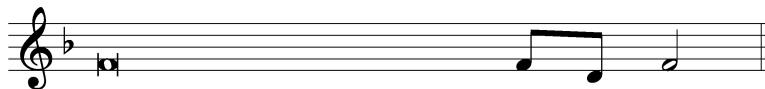
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the faithful who have gone before us
and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

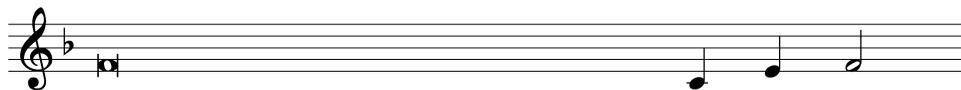


Thanks be to God.

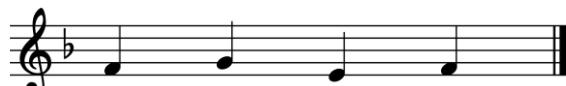


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints,
let us commend ourselves, one another,
and our whole life to Christ our Lord:



to you, O Lord.

✠ The Sacrament ✠

BE SEATED

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin, so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Sanctus*)

483 (3,4) – Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty



3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!



though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

STAND

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *(Agnus Dei)*

947 – Lamb of God, Pure and Holy



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,



ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.



All sin you car - ried for us, else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
All sin you car - ried for us, else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
All sin you car - ried for us, else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
your peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of Calvary or churches within our fellowship come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

654 – Jesus Sinners Does Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners does 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 are not by the
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to you with a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 Lord for - sak - en; wea - ry souls who lost their way
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



and from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope for
 here their ills have per - fect heal - ing who with hum - ble
 are by Christ, the Shep - herd, tak - en in his arms that
 grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 hearts be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know,
 were as scarlet my transgression,
 it shall be as white as snow
 by your blood and bitter passion,
 for these words I do believe:
 Jesus sinners does receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace,
 from the law I stand acquitted.
 Christ has purchased my release
 and my ev'ry sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:
 Jesus sinners does receive.

Turn the page for the final stanza of the hymn

7 Jesus sinners does receive,
even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave:
Jesus sinners does receive.

STAND

BENEDICAMUS

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God

and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

A - men.

BE SEATED

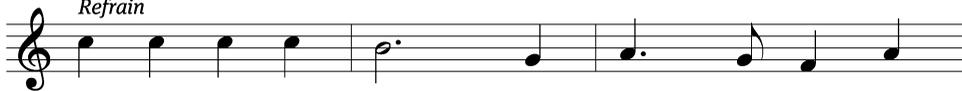


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, one per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, as way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
 4 He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
 5 He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lies God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 The Lamb, the Lamb, let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.
 so still, his will, on our be - half the law to fill.
 He lives, for - gives, he gives me his own right - eous - ness.
 His song pro - long till ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by *Biblica, Inc.*™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.
Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

©2021 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Hymn 538 – Jesus, My Great High Priest

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, *abr.*, *alt.*

Music: Roger R. Ross, 1817-1899

Scripture references: Heb 9:1-12; Heb 7:23-28; 1 Jn 2:1

Text and music: Public domain

Psalm 51B

Text: © 1987 Christopher L. Webber, admin. Church Publishing, Inc.

Tune: Donald Rotermund © Concordia Publishing House; adapt. Adrian Smith

Hymn 568 – His Robes for Mine

Text: Chris Anderson, b. 1971

Music: Greg Habegger, b. 1973

Scripture references: Isa 61:10; 2 Co 5:21; Rev 7:9-14; 2 Co 5:15

Text and music: © 2008 Church Works Media

Hymn 483 – Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, *alt.*, *alt.*

Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876; setting: *The Worshipbook: Services and Hymns*, 1972

Scripture references: Isa 6:2,3; Rev 4:2-11; Ex 15:11; Isa 45:22

Text and music: public domain

Hymn 947 – Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485-after 1546; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485-after 1546; setting: *Choralbuch zum Ev^oangelischen Kirchengesangbuch*, 1952, *alt.*

Scripture references: Isa 53:4-7; Jn 1:29; 1 Pe 1:18-19; 1 Jn 2:2

Text and tune: public domain; setting © 1952 Verlag Merseburger

Hymn 654 – Jesus Sinners Does Receive

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

Tune: *Neu-vergertigtes Darmstadtisches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, *alt.*

Scripture references: Mt 9:9-13; Lk 7:34-50; 15:1-7; Lk 5:31,32; 1 Ti 1:15,16

Text and music: public domain

Hymn 525 – The Lamb

Text and music: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953; © 1987 Morning Star Music Publishers, Inc.

Setting: © 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

Scripture references: Ge 22:7,8; Heb 7:27; Isa 53:6; 2 Co 5:21; Rev 5:6-14

All texts and music reprinted under:

- OneLicense A-714955;
- CCLI # 3081415 [2/28/2022];

Streaming License B CSPL036414 [3/31/2022]



THE SEASON OF LENT: PREPARATION TO HOLY WEEK

The season of Lent seems to have developed as a time for catechumens to prepare for the serious step of their Easter baptism. The season began with a call to those who had lapsed to return to the faith and to do so with the ashes of penitence. The days before baptism included fasting as baptismal candidates pondered the reality of carrying their own crosses. The historic Gospel for the First Sunday in Lent (*Christian Worship* retains this selection) recounts the Lord's defeat of the devil's temptations and provides both power and pattern for the Christian's struggle with Satan. The rest of the Lenten gospels follow that pattern as they show Jesus in conflict with his foes. The Sundays in Lent remain "little Easters" (they are Sundays in Lent but not of Lent and the liturgical vestments are appropriate), but the mood of the season is somber and serious as the color purple and its repentance motif reflect the church's worship. Not all agree with the omission of the alleluias during the season (Luther among them ["An Order of Mass and Communion," *Luther's Works*, Vol. 53, page 24.]), but long-standing use commends this practice as well as the custom of omitting *Gloria in excelsis*.

Lutherans in Europe and America became accustomed to gathering for worship on the weekdays of Lent to meditate on the Lord's Passion. With the first day of Lent setting the pace, services were often held on Wednesdays. The common practice was to divide a harmonization of the four passion accounts into six parts with one part in focus at each of the six services. Sermon series based on various themes of the passion were at the ready for busy preachers. The historic Proper for Ash Wednesday was available in worship resources, but in most cases the observance on Ash Wednesday matched the other five services. In an era when the Sacrament was offered only a few times a year, the Ash Wednesday service often concluded with Holy Communion.

Interest in observing Ash Wednesday as a service of corporate confession grew in our circles. The use of the Ash Wednesday Proper was encouraged and services were created to emphasize confession. Resources divided the passion history into five parts for the five remaining midweek services and also offered an option to read the passion accounts as they are written distinctively by Matthew, Mark, and Luke (John is reserved for Good Friday).



INTRODUCTION TO HOLY WEEK

In the far reaches of eternity the Son of God accepted his role in the divine plan to free human creatures from the power of Satan, sin, and death. God announced this plan at the closed gates of the Garden when he outlined the confrontation between the Seed and the serpent. God arranged for the plan as he selected a human ancestry for his Son and predicted the plan in the writings of the prophets. With this plan in mind, the God-man Jesus walked into the waters of the Jordan to be baptized and was led into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations. This was the plan he shared with his followers. When they confessed their faith in him, "he then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). Although the disciples did not fully understand the plan, Jesus understood the plan perfectly and knew that the plan was central in his life and the life of the world. A week before his death, Jesus said, "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour" (John 12:27).

Not until after the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost did Jesus' followers grasp the full meaning of the master's suffering, death, and resurrection. Then, fully understanding and firmly believing, they carried out the Savior's command to preach the gospel to every creature. Joined by Paul and many more, they proclaimed in temple courts and on dusty roads, in public squares and private homes, in palaces and prisons the forgiveness of sins gained by Jesus' passion and guaranteed by his resurrection.

They also proclaimed Christ in public worship. The resurrection was the primary focus when Christians gathered to praise and proclaim. The resurrection established the day of worship and stood at the pinnacle of the worship year as the *festum festorum*. The early church viewed the resurrection as the grand finale of the divine plan, but the sufferings and death of Jesus were as much a part of their rejoicing as was his resurrection even before the days of Holy Week became a formal and permanent addition to the Christian calendar.

As the church grew in numbers at many times and places, Christians celebrated the central event of their faith in different ways. Some practices found their way into the life of the wider church; others remained local or were abandoned. Millions of pages have related the history and practice of Holy Week worship and this is not the place to attempt even a simplified review. These notes mean to introduce and explain the Holy Week services which are connected to *Christian Worship*. These services are based on rites which have become familiar and have been found to be edifying in our churches.