



## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021

View the video file on our 'SJL Services' YouTube Channel  
Search "sjlc napoleon ohio"



### *A Call to Return*

#### **As We Gather**

Through the words of the prophet Joel, God called to His people and commanded that they turn from their sinful ways and return to Him for His grace and blessings. The images the prophet uses are vivid and disturbing. The situation of God's people is desperate and needs immediate attention. This is a time for listening and responding to the call to return to faithfulness to the God who has ever been faithful to His people. "Return to the Lord, your God" is more than a verse sung as part of the liturgy. It is a heartfelt directive for our lives as together we follow the pathway of Lent.

---

### + PREPARATION +

#### **Ash Wednesday 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.

#### **LITANY**

- P** Return to the LORD your God,  
**C** for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
- P** From seeking after other gods,  
**C** we return to You, O Lord.

- P** From misusing Your name,  
**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** From forgetting to call upon You in every trouble and from faltering in prayer,  
**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** From faltering in worship and not always hearing and learning Your Word gladly,  
**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** From disrespecting the authorities You have placed in our lives,  
**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** From disregard for our neighbor's well-being,  
**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** From failing to nurture the most important relationships in our lives,  
**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** From our lack of complete honesty toward one another and our failure to help our neighbors improve their possession and income,  
**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** From speaking hurtful words about others and failing to explain our neighbors' actions in the kindest way,  
**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** From covetous thoughts and actions,  
**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** To Your gracious Word of love for us in Christ,  
**C** **we return.**
- P** To our identity as children of God, baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
**C** **we return.**
- P** To Christ's body and blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins,  
**C** **we return.**
- P** Return to the LORD your God,  
**C** **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**
- P** Steadfast Lord, You remain a solid foundational rock, even when we are shaky and weak. We thank and praise You for Your gracious invitation to return to You, not only during this Lenten season, but day by day. We are prone to wander. Yet Your love for us never wavers, and You constantly call us to return to You. Bless our Lenten journey. Let it be for us a time of daily returning to You, that we may be Your own and live under You in Your kingdom and serve You in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**
- P** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

## + CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

### 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

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

### INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. Holy and gracious God,
- C** we confess our sin to You.
- P** We cannot overcome our own sinful nature. Our desiring, our thinking, our acting, and our speaking—all goods gifts that You provide through Your good creation—we have warped and turned into instruments of sin.
- C** Lord, have mercy on us.
- P** We have not loved You with our whole heart, soul, body, mind, and strength. We have neglected the needs of our neighbors—both those closest to us and strangers alike.
- C** Lord, have mercy on us.

- P** For the times when our faith has wavered, for moments of arrogance, for petty jealousies, and for the small and big ways we have sought revenge.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For placing our own personal needs over the needs of our community and over the needs of other people in our lives.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For the times that our hearts have turned away from worshiping You.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For the times when we have not prayed as regularly and trustingly as we should.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For the times when we have shrunk away from opportunities to give witness to Your grace to us in Christ Jesus.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For the times when we have displayed bad attitudes toward those who struggle in life, imagining that we deserve better than they do.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For seeking comfort for ourselves and not being as concerned about those who suffer injustice.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For explaining our neighbors' actions in unkind ways. For using our words as weapons against others. For standing in judgment over those who most need to hear a word of grace.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For the times when we have been careless toward this beautiful world that You created for us to live in.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For all of the other sins, those of which we are aware and those to which we remain blind, we plead with You to forgive us and to fill us with the power of the Spirit to amend our lives.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** Because of Jesus' paying the price for our sins on the cross, God readily forgives all who return to Him in repentance and faith. "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:11–14).
- C** **Amen.**

## + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

PSALM

*Psalm 51:1-13*

### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.  
 Merciful God, You call us to turn from sin, turn to You, and live. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is, confess it to You, and then receive the forgiveness of our sins accomplished by our Lord Jesus on the cross; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

- P** Return to the Lord, your God,  
**C** for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

**THEME HYMN “Break Your Hearts”**

KING’S WESTON

Lisa M. Clark

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958



1 Break your hearts with mourn - ing And your pride in two,  
 2 See your Sav - ior dy - ing, Hung up - on the tree.  
 3 Gath - er all in num - ber From both far and near;



Ash and grief a - dorn - ing Your re - pen - tance true.  
 It is vain de - ny - ing What is plain to see:  
 E - ven those in slum - ber Wait for trum - pets clear.



With your tears and fast - ing, From your God dis - cern  
 While His heart is break - ing, Still your God will earn  
 When the Lord grants bless - ing, Bro - ken hearts will learn



His ways ev - er - last - ing: To your Lord re - turn.  
 Free - dom in the mak - ing. To your Lord re - turn.  
 Joy be - yond ex - press - ing; To your Lord re - turn.

**SERMON “A Call to Return”**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**ORGAN OFFERTORY and Steward***MINUTE*

- Offering Prayer

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

**PREFACE**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is our duty and delight to thank and praise You, holy and mighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to repent and believe the Gospel, by which our salvation has been accomplished—the Good News that Jesus has died to forgive our sins, has been raised to new life, and calls us to follow where He has gone before. 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

*LSB, p. 161*

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*LSB, p. 161*

- P** Thanks and praise we give to You, O Lord, for returning to Your people again and again in mercy. When Adam and Eve walked away, You came to them with the promise of a Savior. When the world forgot Your ways, You saved Noah and his family in the flood. When the Israelites complained in the wilderness, still You provided manna and quail. When so many of the kings were unfaithful, You sustained a faithful remnant. At just the right time, You sent Jesus, Your only-begotten Son, to suffer, die, and be raised, so that the whole world might return to You.

On this Ash Wednesday marked by repentance, we return to You, O God, and praise You that Your mercy never fails, that You forgive not seven times but seventy times seven, that Jesus came to save not the righteous, but sinners. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

## LORD’S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass  
against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and  
ever. Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

- C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace. Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

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

### 570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 2 Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many\_a conflict, many\_a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 5 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.
- 6 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: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- A** Let us pray.  
Forgiving God, we thank You for providing Christ's body and blood as nourishment today and throughout our Lenten journey. As we travel through these forty days, guide us to greater depth and breadth in following Jesus, that as the Body of Christ our witness to the love of God may permeate the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- 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.

## 418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days  
You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin,  
And free us from our past.
- 2 You strove with Satan, and You won;  
Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust  
In God's eternal Word.

**3** Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed  
And fixed Your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves,  
Since we have known God's love.

**4** Be with us through this season, Lord,  
And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns,  
We join in heaven's praise.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004474

## ✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

To God Alone Be Glory

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.  
Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### **Acknowledgments**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.