

ASH WEDNESDAY ORDER OF SERVICE

(MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE 1, 2025)

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO FREELY GIVES

The Christmas trees we decorated with careful hands just a few months ago have come and gone. The account of our salvation in Jesus Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem, has progressed from the manger through the Epiphany light of our Lord's proclamation of "liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18; see Isaiah 61:1).

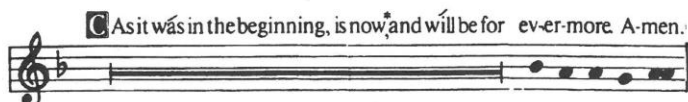
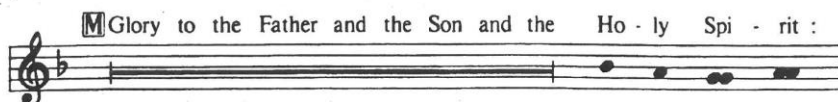
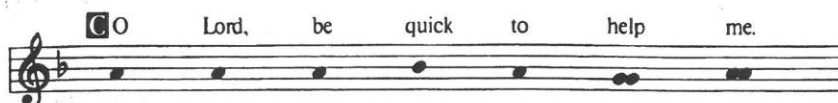
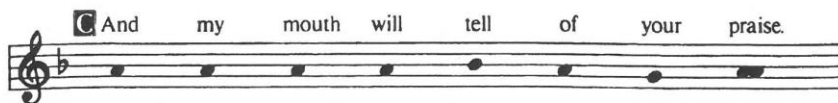
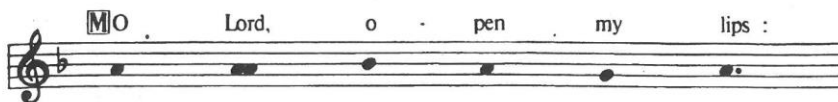
Lent returns, reminding us that the Christian life is one of repeated, daily repentance and faith because, though our deliverance is made sure, we walk by faith in the "not yet" of complete holiness and final release from sin. Repentance means we come this night with empty hands, that is, the confession of our total need of God's mercy, grace, and deliverance. We come to the God who has revealed Himself in love in the forgiveness of our sin by means of His own bloody, substitutionary sacrifice in our own human flesh for us and for our salvation, and are welcomed to repentance and faith freely given by the hand of the Lord.

May the Lord bless our worship tonight



As the minister approaches the altar the congregation stands

Organ



LENT RESPONSORY

LSB, p. 231

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

The congregation sits

The Word That Spoke in Darkness

Lisa M. Clark

Mark Knickelbein



- 1 The Word that spoke in dark-ness And prom-ised com-ing light
- 2 The Sav-ior came to con-quer And meet His mis-sion's aim:
- 3 The Christ pro-claimed His vic-t'ry With ev-'ry act of grace:
- 4 The Prince of Peace con-tin-ued With each new task com-plete



Kept guid-ing through the a-ges Un-til the time was right
Up- end- ing Sa-tan's ter-ror, Cre-a-tion to re-claim
The out-cast shown com-pas-sion And God's own ho-ly face
At cross and tomb and glo-ry Up-on His roy-al seat,



To take on flesh and fol-low The Fa-ther's good com-mand
By walk-ing on the wa-ters So we by faith may stand
As Jes-sus looked with fa-vor On all from ev-'ry land
De-liv-er-ance ac-com-plished Ex-act-ly as He planned;



And dwell a-mong His peo-ple, The king-dom now at hand.
With trust in Him whose res-cue Is of-fered by His hand.
Who need-ed life and heal-ing From His al-might-y hand.
Our King will raise in wel-come His pierced and ris-en hand.

The congregation stands

PSALM

Psalm 51:1-4, 10-12

- P Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;
C **according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**
P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
C **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**
P Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,
C **so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**
P Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C **and renew a right spirit within me.**
P Cast me not away from Your presence,
C **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**
P Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- 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.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P Let us pray.
C **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. Amen.**

The congregation sits

FIRST READING

Joel 2:12-19

- P The First Reading is from Joel, the second chapter.

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to Me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and 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.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between 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?”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for His land
and had pity on His people.

¹⁹The 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.**

**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,
despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

P The Second Reading is from Second Corinthians, the fifth and sixth chapters.

^{20b}We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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.

³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE PASSION NARRATIVE

After the Narrative:

P Here ends the reading.

The congregation stands

LAMB OF GOD, PURE AND HOLY

LSB 434

1

Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer,
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

The congregation sits

HYMN

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” (*LSB 761*)

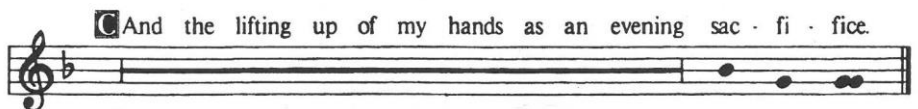
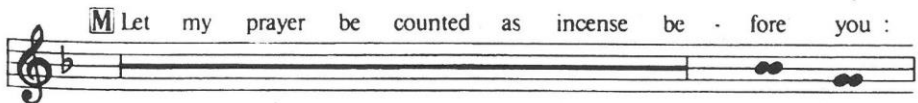
SERMON Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives

HYMN

O God, Our Help In Ages Past (*LSB 733*)

The congregation stands

THE CANTICLE



PRAYER

P Let us pray:

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB, p. 162

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.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

HYMN

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” (*LSB 722*)