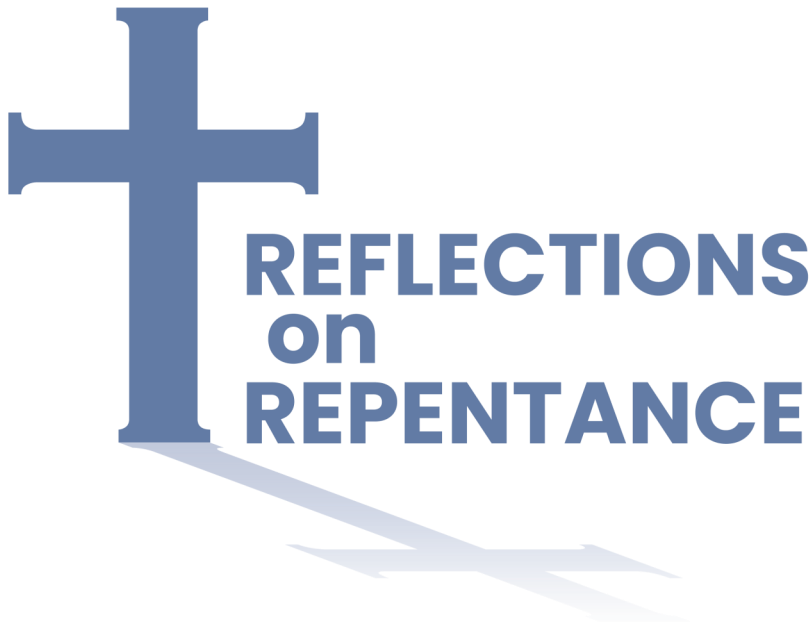


**March 5, 2025  
Ash Wednesday**



**Recognizing  
Against Whom We Sin**

**Prepare for Worship**

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Amen.

# Ash Wednesday Confessional Rite

## 655 Before You, God, the Judge of All



1 Be - fore you, God, the judge of all, with grief and shame I  
2 O Lord, my God, to you I pray: O cast me not in  
3 O Je - sus, let your pre - cious blood be to my soul a



hum - bly fall. I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,  
wrath a - way! Let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,  
cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,



my sins of thought and deed and word. They press me  
but let him draw to you my heart that tru - ly  
but grant that jus - ti - fied I may go to my



sore; to you I flee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
house at peace to be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

*Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–1880, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.*

*Tune: attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Text and tune: Public domain*

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## Invocation

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

**Amen.**

## 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.**

## The Word

### Salutation

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

## 2 Samuel 12:1–13

So the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came and told him this:

There were two men in a city. One was rich and one poor. <sup>2</sup>The rich man had a large number of flocks and herds. <sup>3</sup>The poor man did not own anything except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He raised it so that it grew up together with him and his children. It ate from his food and drank from his cup. It slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. <sup>4</sup>When a traveler came to the rich man, the rich man was unwilling to take an animal from his flock or from his herd to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. So he took the lamb from the poor man and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

<sup>5</sup>David's anger flared up against that man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this is as good as dead. <sup>6</sup>In place of that lamb, he will restore four lambs, because he did this and had no pity."

<sup>7</sup>Nathan told David, "You are the man." This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says.

I anointed you king over Israel. I rescued you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup>I gave the house of your master to you, and I gave the wives of your master into your embrace. I gave you the house of Israel and the house of Judah. If this was too little, I would have added even more. <sup>9</sup>Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in his eyes? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword. You have taken his wife as your own wife. You have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup>So now the sword will not depart from your house forever, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

<sup>11</sup>This is what the LORD says. Look! I am raising up disaster against you from your own house. Right in front of your eyes I will take your wives and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie down with your wives in the sight of the sun. <sup>12</sup>Because you acted in secret, I will do this in front of all Israel in broad daylight. <sup>13</sup>David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan said to David, "The LORD himself has put away your sin. You will not die.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 51D God, Be Merciful to Me



1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on your grace I  
2 My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my



rest my plea; your com - pas - sions o - ver - flow,  
soul op - press; I have sinned a - gainst your grace



blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me  
and pro - voked you to your face; I con - fess your



pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.  
judg - ment just, speech - less, in your mer - cy trust.

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead Text and tune: Public domain

## The Passion History of Our Lord Jesus Christ

### Lesson One

The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to his disciples, “You know that after two days it will be the Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas. They plotted together how to arrest Jesus in some deceitful way and kill him. But they said, “Not during the Festival, or else there might be a riot among the people.” Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. He went away and spoke with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money. He promised to do it and was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them away from the crowd.

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, 'Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

A dispute arose among the disciples about which of them was considered to be greatest. But he told them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called Benefactors. But it is not to be that way with you. Instead, let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. For who is greater, one who reclines at the table or one who serves? Isn't it the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have remained with me in my trials. I am going to grant a kingdom to you, just as my Father granted to me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them to the end. By the time the supper took place, the Devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God. He got up from the supper and laid aside his outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand." Peter told him, "You will never, ever, wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me." "Lord, not just my feet," Simon Peter replied, "but also my hands and my head!" Jesus told him, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, but his body is completely clean. And you are clean, but not all of you." Indeed, he knew who was going to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean." After Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer garment, he reclined at the table again.



“Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me Teacher and Lord. You are right, because I am. Now if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. Yes, I have given you an example so that you also would do just as I have done for you. Amen, Amen, I tell you: A servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.” He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

## 408 He Stood before the Court



1 He stood be - fore the court on trial in - stead of  
 2 These are the crimes that tell the tale of hu - man  
 3 The sen - tence must be passed, the un - known pris - 'ner  
 4 Shall we be judged and tried? In Christ our trial is



us; he met its pow'r to hurt, con - demned to  
 guilt; our sins, our death, our hell— on these the  
 killed; the price is paid at last, the law of  
 done; we live, for he has died, our con - dem -



face the cross— our King, ac - cused of treach - er -  
 case is built. To this world's pow'rs the Lord stays  
 God ful - filled. He takes our blame, and from that  
 na - tion gone. In Christ are we both dead and



y; our God, a - bused for blas - phe - my!  
 dumb. The guilt is ours, no an - swers come.  
 day th'ac - cu - ser's claim is wiped a - way.  
 raised, a - live and free— his name be praised!

Text: Christopher M. Idle, b. 1938, alt. Tune: Leland B. Sateren, 1913–2007

Text: © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

Tune: © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

## Sermon Recognizing Against Whom We Sin Psalm 51:3-4

*Stand*

### Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus that, through repentance and faith in the gospel, they may remain secure in your love.

Lord God, gracious Father, we thank you for setting your Son's sacrifice between us and sin's reward. By your Spirit work in us through the gospel, give us repentant hearts, make our faith firm in Christ, and enliven us to serve you faithfully.

**Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.**

Lord God, almighty Father, renew your Church throughout the world that it may constantly look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Bless us with faithful ministers who always proclaim Christ's cross and resurrection for the salvation of the world.

**Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.**

Lord God, loving Father, in your mercy you abundantly supply our needs of body and soul. Create in us the mind of Christ, that in humility and generosity—considering not only our own interests, but also the interests of others—we may be merciful to those in need. Direct our efforts to help poor, lonely, troubled, and ill people.

**Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, comfort all who are mourning the death of people they loved. Lift their eyes to the cross where your Son defeated death and to the empty tomb where he assured us that we will live with him forever. Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, look with favor upon all sick, injured, and recovering people. If it be your will deliver them from their infirmities. Let them hear of your unfailing love.

**Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Lord God, eternal Father, we praise you that you have delivered the Christian souls who have gone before us from this world of dust and ashes to paradise. As their prayers continually ascend before your throne, join our prayers to theirs as fragrant incense. Hear us for the sake of him who was crucified for us and always intercedes on our behalf, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Be seated

## Offering

# The Sacrament

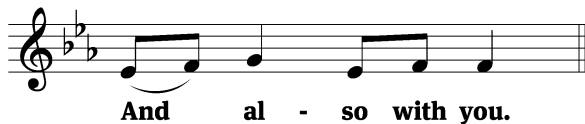
*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. The Lord's Supper makes a second statement. It says, "We are one in all that we do." We don't know if this type of bond exists with our guests, so we ask that if you are not a member of a WELS or ELS congregation you refrain from the Lord's Supper today and meet personally with our pastor if you desire to receive the sacrament in the future.*

Stand

## Preface

165

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -



san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,



bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **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.**

## 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."

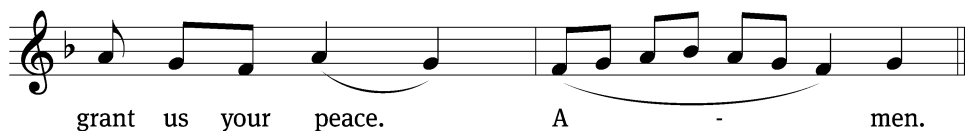
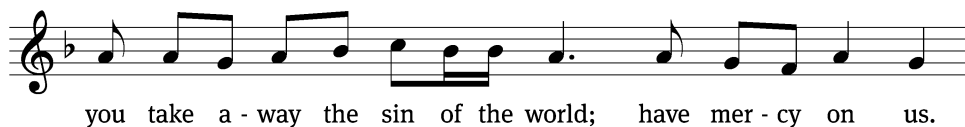
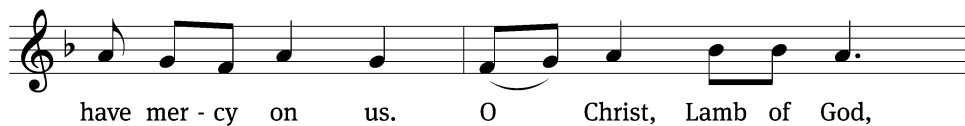
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169



*Be seated*

## Distribution

### 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.



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.

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

*Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.*

*Stand*

## **Thanksgiving**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

## 578 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, high - er than the  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part com - fort to a  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
 5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, by your Spir - it



blood for me, died that I might live on high,  
 heav'n's a - bove, deep - er than the depths of sea,  
 wound - ed heart, peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
 all to me; all my wants to him are known,  
 and your Word. When my way - ward heart would stray,



lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
 last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, love that found me—  
 joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, faith and hope to  
 all my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in  
 keep me in the nar - row way; grace in time of



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!  
 won - drous thought— found me when I sought him not.  
 walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.  
 earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.  
 need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

*Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain*

## **Lent Schedule**

Join us on Wednesdays at 7 pm as we prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter.

Mar 5 Ash Wednesday Worship with Communion  
*Recognizing Against Whom We Sin*

Mar 12 Lenten Worship (Pastor Smith)  
*Revealing Our Sinful Nature*

Mar 19 Lenten Worship (Pastor Schmidt)  
*Remembering God's Perfect Demands*

Mar 26 Lenten Worship (Pastor Neumann)  
*Realizing Our Need for Repentance*

Apr 3 Lenten Worship (Pastor Pfeifer)  
*Removing Our Guilt*

Apr 10 Lenten Worship (Pastor Smith)  
*Relying on God's Grace*

## **Acknowledgments**

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text 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 © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

All materials reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722518

## **Lincoln Heights Evangelical Lutheran Church**

1217 Watrous Ave, Des Moines, Iowa

Phone: 515-288-3013

[www.lhelc.org](http://www.lhelc.org)

*A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*

### Pastor

Mathew Pfeifer  
515-771-5111  
[pastor@lhelc.org](mailto:pastor@lhelc.org)

### Secretary

Paula Twelmeyer  
515-288-3013  
[secretary@lhelc.org](mailto:secretary@lhelc.org)