

# FOR US

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Ash Wednesday  
Worship Service

February 18, 2026

St. Paul Luthera Church  
Serbin, TX

## ***“O LOVE, HOW DEEP, HOW BROAD, HOW HIGH”***

This Ash Wednesday, we introduce our Lent sermon series, which is based on the ancient hymn “O Love, How Deep” (LSB 544). This hymn, written in the fifteenth century, contemplates the love of God in becoming man, taking on our life, dying our death, and rising again, all *for us*. But for us to understand and appreciate this love, we must first examine ourselves and our lives to see how we have failed in thought, word, and deed. While we may try to get credit for our so-called good works, we all still die with nothing to show for them. But God’s love is not like our love. Our love is self-centered and fickle. God’s love is steady, deep, and beyond all understanding (Ephesians 3:14–19). This love of God will have no end.

### ***PRE-SERVICE MUSIC***

### ***RINGING OF THE BELLS***

### ***CALL TO WORSHIP***

*Stand*

### ***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.

*Silence for reflection*

### ***LITANY***

**P** O Lord,  
**C** **have mercy.**  
**P** O Christ,  
**C** **have mercy.**  
**P** O Lord,  
**C** **have mercy.**  
**P** O Christ,  
**C** **hear us.**  
**P** God the Father in heaven,  
**C** **have mercy.**  
**P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**C** **have mercy.**  
**P** God the Holy Spirit,  
**C** **have mercy.**  
**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Spare us, good Lord.

**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and Passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** We poor sinners implore You

**C** to hear us, O Lord.

**P** To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**P** To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**P** To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C** we implore You to hear us.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** grant us Your peace.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy. Amen.

**P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

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!

Text: Public domain

*Stand*

#### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**PSALM**

**PSALM 51:1-13**

**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** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**C** **Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

**P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**C** **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**

**P** Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**C** **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**P** Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

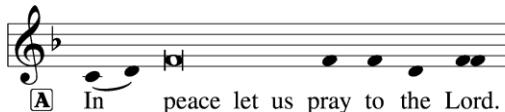
**C** **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**P** Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

**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.**

**KYRIE**

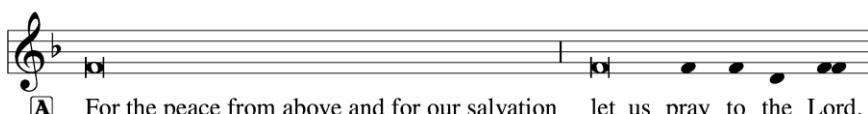
**LSB 152**



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



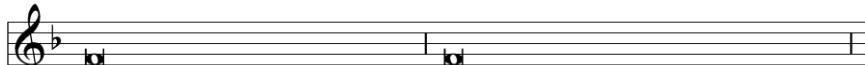
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** 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.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



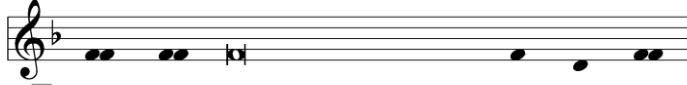
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

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.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Joel, the second chapter.

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with

**Joel 2:12-19**

mourning; and 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. Who 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather 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.

Between 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?'"

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

#### EPISTLE

#### 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B–6:10

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

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

Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For 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. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as 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.**

*Stand*

#### VERSE FOR LENT

LSB 157

**C** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## HOLY GOSPEL

## MATTHEW 6:1–6, 16–21

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

**P** [Jesus said:] "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . . "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## NICENE CREED

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life <sup>†</sup> of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**SERMON HYMN: "O LOVE, HOW DEEP"****LSB 544:1, 5-6**

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
Beyon<sup>d</sup> all thought and fantasy,  
That God, the Son of God, should take  
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
He bore the shameful cross and death;  
For us He gave His dying breath.

6 For us He rose from death again;  
For us He went on high to reign;  
For us He sent His Spirit here  
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

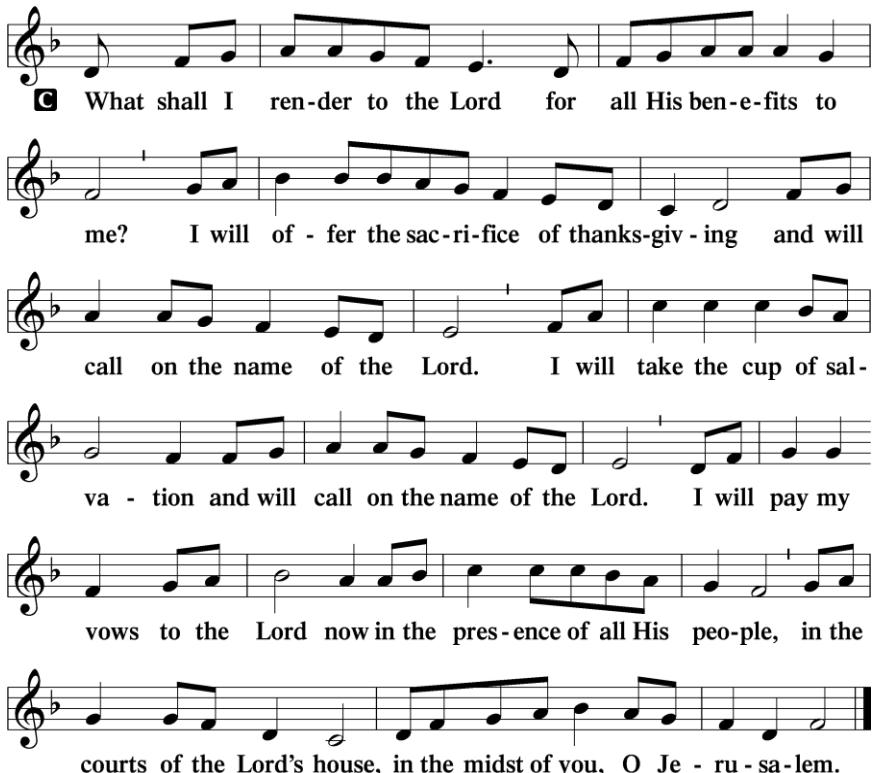
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**SERMON: "O LOVE, HOW DEEP, HOW BROAD, HOW HIGH"****EPHESIANS 3:14-19**

By Pastor John Schmidt

*Stand*

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
**C** Amen.

**OFFERTORY**

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

*Sit*

## OFFERING

As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.

### OFFERING HYMN: *WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN*

LSB 781 V. 1-2

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Text: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PSALM 51:12, 15

**P** Let us bring our requests to God, whose love knows no bounds. For all who do not know our loving Lord, that He would bring the news of Christ to their ears, strengthen them in faith, and urge them to live in love, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

**P** For the church, that God would open doors of opportunity for leaders and members to proclaim the Gospel, that schisms within it be mended, that the faithful be protected in body and soul, and that all people of faith find joy in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Grant them, O God, to be strengthened with power through Your Spirit.**

**P** Where there is conflict and warfare between nations, that God would move leaders and citizens to seek peace with their neighbors and calm within their borders, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Dwell in their hearts, O Christ, through faith.**

**P** Where the old and young are forgotten, the sick and grieving ignored, and the needs of any are not met, that God would prosper the work of farmers and ranchers, relief agencies and civic leaders to provide for their needs, [and especially . . .], let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Grant that all caregivers reflect God's love and be gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**P** For each of us, that our service to God, our concern for one another, and the mission He puts before us be joyful endeavors we seek for the growth of the church and glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Amen.**

## PREFACE

LSB 160

A musical staff in G major, common time. It begins with a treble clef, a B-flat key signature, and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, primarily on the G, B, and D strings. The lyrics 'The Lord be with you.' are written below the staff.

**P** The Lord be with you.

A musical staff in G major, common time. It begins with a treble clef, a B-flat key signature, and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, primarily on the G, B, and D strings. The lyrics 'And also with you.' are written below the staff.

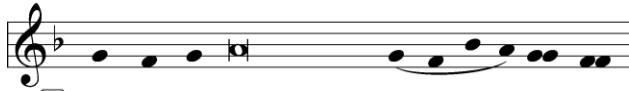
**C** And also with you.

A musical staff in G major, common time. It begins with a treble clef, a B-flat key signature, and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, primarily on the G, B, and D strings. The lyrics 'Lift up your hearts.' are written below the staff.

**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 truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth. 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 161**



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en 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 who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. 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

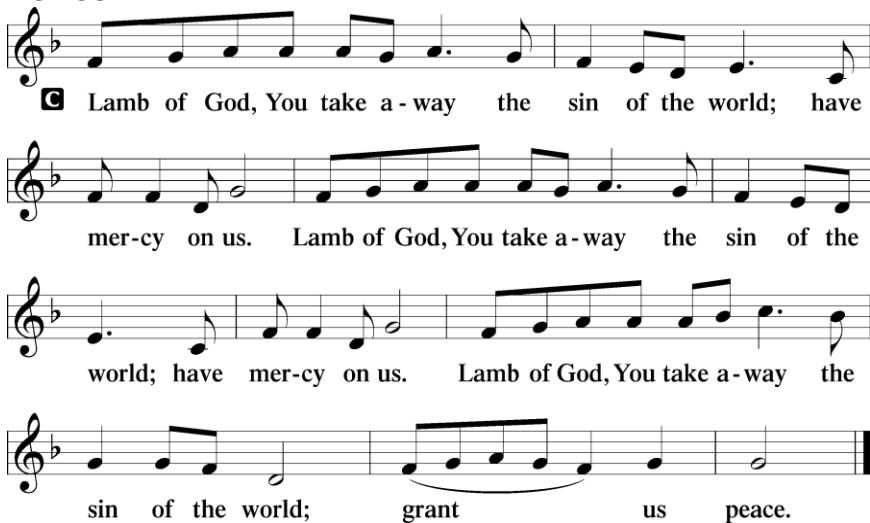
### PAX DOMINI

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

**C** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "LOVE IN CHRIST IS STRONG AND LIVING"

LSB 706

- 1 Love in Christ is strong and living,  
Binding faithful hearts in one;  
Love in Christ is true and giving.  
May His will in us be done.
  
- 2 Love is patient and forbearing,  
Clothed in Christ's humility,  
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,  
Reaching out in charity.
  
- 3 Love in Christ abides forever,  
Fainting not when ills attend;  
Love, forgiving and forgiven,  
Shall endure until life's end.

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**DISTRIBUTION HYMN: /J/"NOT FOR TONGUES OF HEAVEN'S ANGELS"****LSB 695**

1 Not for tongues of heaven's angels,  
    Not for wisdom to discern,  
Not for faith that masters mountains,  
    For this better gift we yearn:  
May love be ours, O Lord.

2 Love is humble, love is gentle,  
    Love is tender, true, and kind;  
Love is gracious, ever patient,  
    Generous of heart and mind:  
May love be ours, O Lord.

3 Never jealous, never selfish,  
    Love will not rejoice in wrong;  
Never boastful nor resentful,  
    Love believes and suffers long:  
May love be ours, O Lord.

4 In the day this world is fading  
    Faith and hope will play their part;  
But when Christ is seen in glory  
    Love shall reign in ev'ry heart:  
May love be ours, O Lord.

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**DISTRIBUTION HYMN: /J/"AS REBELS, LORD, WHO FOOLISHLY HAVE WANDERED"****LSB 612**

1 As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered  
    Far from Your love—unfed, unclean, unclothed—  
Dare we recall Your wealth so rashly squandered,  
    Dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed?

2 Still we return, our contrite words rehearsing,  
    Speech, that within Your warm embrace soon dies;  
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain reversing  
    As tears of joy and welcome fill Your eyes.

3 A feast of love for us You are preparing;  
    We who were lost, You give an honored place!  
"Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more despairing—  
    Here taste again the treasures of My grace."

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*Stand*

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE****LSB 165**

C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -  
veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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, Amen, Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: "O LORD, THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS"****LSB 418**

- 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.**

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### ***SILENT PRAYER***

### ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

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