



Ash Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church

W156 N5436 Bette Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI | 262-781-3520 | office@pilgrimcares.org
Worship services - Wednesday 6:30pm, Sunday 8:00 and 10:30am

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent and the beginning of our journey as we follow Jesus to the cross. Ash Wednesday is a time when believers humble themselves before the Lord and confess their sins to him.

Tonight's worship includes an ancient Church rite known as Imposition of Ashes. It must be stressed, participation is entirely optional. The use of ashes as a sign of repentance is a common biblical theme. The symbolism is rich. The ashes remind us of so much: that because of sin, our bodies will turn to dust; that because of Christ, our guilt has been turned to ash; that repentance, like faith, is accompanied by fruits.

We emphasize that utilizing the Imposition of Ashes does not make one's repentance more real, nor one's faith more sincere. It is like folding your hands in prayer. It is neither good nor bad. It might be a helpful devotional aid for you. If so, then participate. It might mean nothing to you. Then do not participate. In matters where Scripture has not spoken, we enjoy Christian freedom. God bless our worship this evening!

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Pastor Collin Vanderhoof

Preacher

Pastor Aaron Winkleman

Organist

David Porth

Cantors

Jared Justman, Dorian Medrow, Samantha O'Connell

Guitar

Andy Braun

DIVINE SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Invocation

Please remain seated

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

Amen

Instruction for the beginning of Lent

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, 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 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author 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, become 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.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Confession and Absolution

We have come into God's presence; maker of the heav'ns and earth. He created us to love him; to serve him as his precious child. We have disobeyed and erred, thus deserving wrath and anger.

Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.



Lord to you I make con - fes - sion; I have sinned and
gone a - stray; I have mul-ti-plied trans - gres - sion,
cho - sen for my-self my way. Led by you to see my er -
rors, Lord, I trem-ble at your ter - rors.

"This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word," declares the LORD. (Isaiah 66:2)

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.



Lord, on you I cast my bur - den; sink it in the
depths be-low! Let me know your gra-cious par - don;
wash me, make me white as snow. Let your Spir-it leave me nev -
er; make me on - ly yours for - ev - er.

Imposition of Ashes

The minister applies ashes to the forehead or hand of those who desire in the form of a small cross saying:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Savior, When in Dust to You

CW 393



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom - age due,
2 By your help - less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,



when, re - pent - ant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes,
by your days of deep dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,
by the vault whose dark a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God,



O, by all your pains and woe suf - fered once for us be - low,
by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of th' in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,
O, from earth to heav'n re - stored, might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord,



bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn, O turn a fa - v'ring eye, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, abr., alt. Tune: Joseph Parry, 1841–1903 Text and tune: Public domain

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

CW 823



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, fount of pur - est plea - sure,
 2 In thine arms I rest me; foes who would op - press me
 3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; death, I now de - cry thee;
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,
 5 Hence, all fear and sad - ness! For the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me. Ah, how long in an - guish
 can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,
 fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
 Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!
 Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love the Fa - ther,



shall my spir - it lan - guish, yearn - ing, Lord, for thee?
 ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.
 nor thy threats a - larm me while I sing of peace.
 Naught to me thy sto - ry told with tempt - ing voice.
 though the storms may gath - er, still have peace with - in.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
 Light - nings flash and thun - ders crash; yet, though sin and
 God's great pow'r guards ev - 'ry hour; earth and all its
 Pain or loss or shame or cross shall not from my
 Yea, what - e'er I here must bear, thou art still my



naught to hide thee; naught I ask be - side thee.
 hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 depths a - dore him, si - lent bow be - fore him.
 Sav - ior move me since he deigns to love me.
 pur - est plea - sure, Je - sus, price - less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; (sts. 1–2, 4–5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 3): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

After all who desire have received ashes, the minister says:

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.

For your Son has suf-fered for me, giv'n him - self to
res - cue me, died to save me and re - store me,
re - con - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a-lone can van -
quish these dark fears and soothe this an - guish.

First Reading

Isaiah 59:12-20

¹²For our offenses are many in your sight,
and our sins testify against us.

Our offenses are ever with us,
and we acknowledge our iniquities:

¹³rebellion and treachery against the LORD,
turning our backs on our God,
inciting revolt and oppression,
uttering lies our hearts have conceived.

¹⁴So justice is driven back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets,
honesty cannot enter.

¹⁵Truth is nowhere to be found,
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.

The LORD looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.

¹⁶He saw that there was no one,
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm achieved salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.

¹⁷He put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

¹⁸According to what they have done,
so will he repay

wrath to his enemies
and retribution to his foes;
he will repay the islands their due.

¹⁹From the west, people will fear the name of the LORD,
and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory.

For he will come like a pent-up flood
that the breath of the LORD drives along.

²⁰“The Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,”
declares the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

*3:30pm, Sung by the Junior Choir
Dominic Faust, Piano*

It is finished! It is done!
God has sacrificed his Son.
Christ has paid the debt of sin
that the world might live through him.
Come and see God's own Son.
It is done!

It is finished! It is done!
With the Father we are one.
From our sin Christ set us free;
now we'll live eternally.
Come and see God's own Son.
It is done!

Yes, for us he died,
Jesus Christ the crucified;
we will sing his pow'r to save.

It is finished! It is done!
Let us worship God's own Son.
He has opened heaven's door;
there we'll praise him evermore.
Come and see God's own Son.
It is done!

Anthem

*6:30pm, Sung by the Adult Choir
Kate Dogs, Oboe*

O Savior, look upon the tears,
We shed in deepest grief.
We waste away throughout the years,
Awaiting Your relief.
Remind us, Lord, that You once cried
And wept on Zion's road
And longed to gather to Your side
All with a heavy load.

It is Done!

Matthew D. Manthe

O Savior, Look upon the Tears

Jacob B. Weber

O Savior, hear our anxious prayers
That mingle with our sighs.
We bow beneath our weighty cares
As our petitions rise.
Remind us, Lord, that You would call
Upon Your Father's ear,
And even now, You speak for all
Who hold Your name most dear.

O Savior, see our broken hearts
That suffer with each pain.
We ache with all our wounded parts
As hardened scars remain.
Remind us, Lord, that You endured
The whole world's agony
So our renewal is secured:
From terrors soon set free.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 7:8-13a

⁸Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— ⁹yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹²So even though I wrote to you, it was neither on account of the one who did the wrong nor on account of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. ¹³By all this we are encouraged.

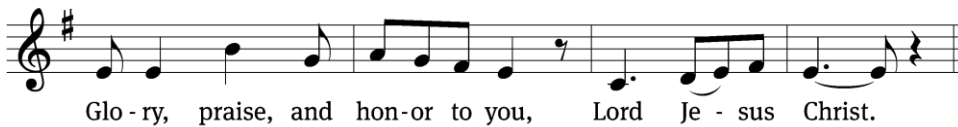
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

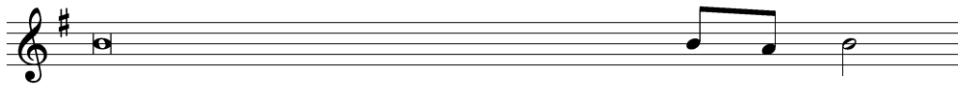
Gospel Acclamation

Joel 2:13

Refrain



Tone



Tune: Steven R. Janco Tune: © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872

Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ¹⁶“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

From Depths of Woe, Lord God, I Cry

CW 650



1 From depths of woe, Lord God, I cry; O hear my
 2 What we have done on our best day is flawed from
 3 Thus an - y mer - it of my own is void and
 4 If it de - lays in - to the night or waits un -
 5 Al - though our sin is great in - deed, the grace of



hum - ble plead - ing! Lis - ten in mer - cy to my sigh,
 its be - gin - ning; on - ly your grace can clear a - way
 un - a - vail - ing; I trust in God and God a - lone,
 til to - mor - row, my heart will lean on God's great might,
 God is great - er; no loss we suf - fer can ex - ceed



my prayer for res - cue heed - ing! Were you, O
 the guilt of all our sin - ning. Be - fore you
 he is my hope un - fail - ing. Since he is
 dis - card - ing doubt and sor - row. The Spir - it
 the help of our Cre - a - tor. Our shep - herd



Lord, to fix your gaze on our re - bel - lious,
 pride must dis - ap - pear; each soul must live in
 good, I soon will see the com - fort he has
 of the Lord is near, pro - vid - ing strength to
 good and true is he, who will at last his



sin - ful ways, then who could stand be - fore you?
 rev - 'rent fear, up - on your grace re - ly - ing.
 prom - ised me; I wait for its ar - ri - val.
 per - se - vere; de - pend on God to help you!
 peo - ple free from all their sin and sor - row.

Text: tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963; Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, alt. Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872 Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer

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.

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.

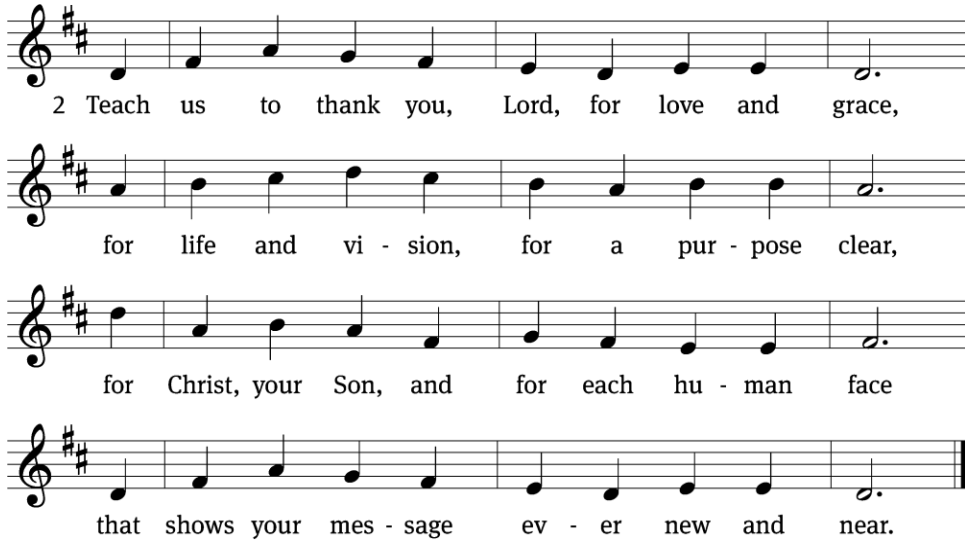
Amen.

Offering

Offering boxes are available in the back of Church as you leave. If you wish to give an electronic offering, we have provided a QR code at the end of this worship folder. You can also go to pilgrimcares.org/giving to give your offerings online.

Offering Hymn

CW 754 st. 2



2 Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace,
for life and vi - sion, for a pur - pose clear,
for Christ, your Son, and for each hu - man face
that shows your mes - sage ev - er new and near.

Text: William W. Reid, Sr., 1890–1983, alt. Tune: Alfred M. Smith, 1879–1971 Text: © 1965 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872 Tune: © 1990 Estate of Alfred M. Smith. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872

The Sacrament

The Bible teaches 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. With that in mind, we invite all members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to come forward. If you wish to partake of the Supper with us in the future, please speak to Pastor after the service.

Stand

Preface

CW 165



The Lord be with you.

And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

CW 230

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -
liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the
pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Dale A. Witte Tune: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872

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."

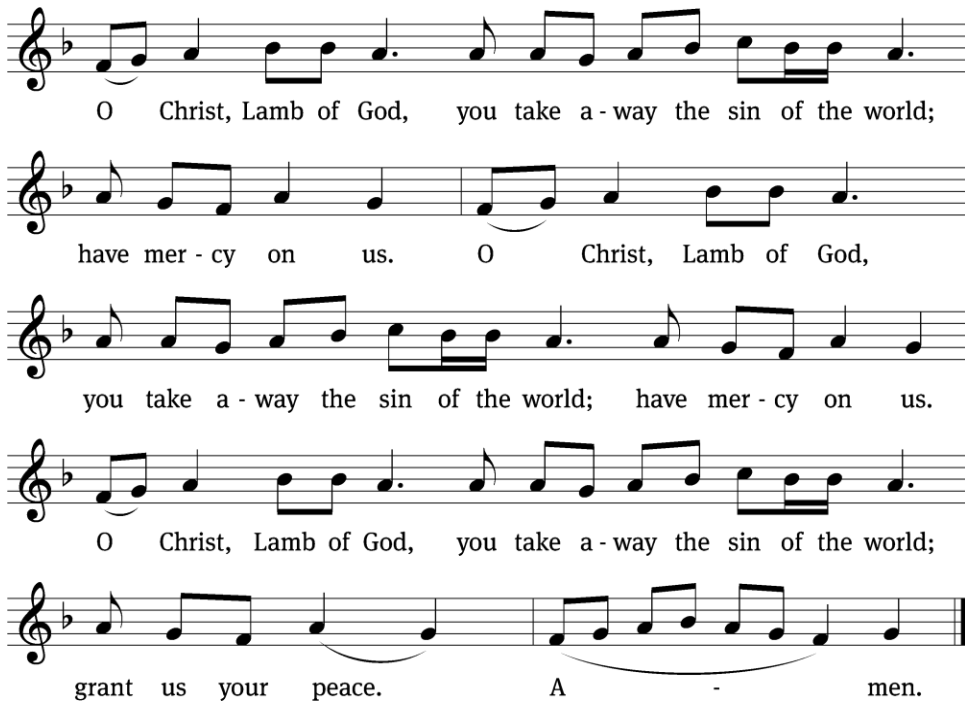
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

Distribution

Jesus Sinners Does Receive

CW 654

- 1 Jesus sinners does receive;
 oh, may all this saying ponder
 who in sin's delusions live
 and from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners does receive.
- 2 We deserve but grief and shame,
 yet his words, rich grace revealing,
pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
 here their ills have perfect healing
 who with humble hearts believe:
Jesus sinners does receive.
- 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray
 are not by the Lord forsaken;
weary souls who lost their way
 are by Christ, the Shepherd, taken
 in his arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners does receive.
- 4 I, a sinner, come to you
 with a penitent confession.
Savior, show me mercy, too;
 grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve:
Jesus sinners does receive.
- 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: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr. Text: Public domain

Stand

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.

Salvation unto Us Has Come

CW 558 sts. 1, 6



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and
6 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made and brought to us sal -



fa - vor; good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and
va - tion, each Chris-tian there - fore may be glad and build on



save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who
this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear Lord, I plead, your



did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.
death is now my life in - deed, for you have paid my ran - som.

Be seated

Worship Schedule for the Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday – (2/18)	3:30pm & 6:30pm
Midweek Lenten Services – (2/25 – 3/25)	3:30pm & 6:30pm
Palm Sunday (3/29) –	9:30am in the Gym (One Service)
Holy Thursday (4/2) –	6:30pm with Communion
Good Friday (4/3) –	1:00pm (Service of the Seven Words from the Cross) 6:30pm (Tenebrae)
Easter Sunday (4/5) –	7:00am Dawn Service 8:30 & 10:00am Festival Service
No Worship Services on Wednesday 4/1	



Pilgrim Lutheran Church can receive offerings electronically through a secure website. Scan the QR code with your smart phone (you might need to download a free QR scanning app) to be directed to Pilgrim's giving page or visit pilgrimcares.org/giving. Save the check – give online!

Pilgrimcares.org

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