

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

28171 West Highway 64 PO Box 851

Canton, Texas 75103

[www.holycrosscanton.com](http://www.holycrosscanton.com)

Pastor Mark Huston

903-603-5071

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

Service of Prayer and Preaching LSB p.260

### As We Gather

We are beginning Lent, the forty days we set aside to focus on our Lord's Passion as we lead up to Easter. The Lord calls us to "Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning," and Joel calls for a "solemn assembly" (Joel 2:12, 15). It is time to "to receive the grace of God" (2 Corinthians 6:1). And it is a time for active dialogue between each of us and our Father in heaven, as Jesus instructs in the Gospel. The readings from Exodus, which shall guide our worship through Lent, though, also provide us with Good News. We do not deserve it, but God hears and answers our cries. Be ready to pray; be ready to thank our gracious God.

## Ash Wednesday

*Stand*

**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.*

**P** Our faith in God is tested when it seems He is not listening to us. The problem is not how God answers but in our limited confession and our failure to totally trust Him for all we need. But God is listening and will answer! Let us now go to our gracious God in confession, expecting Him to hear our cries:

Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!

**C** O Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

**P** If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

**P** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

**C** my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

**P** O Israel, hope in the LORD!

**C** For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with Him is plentiful redemption.

And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

**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*

**P** Symbolizing our repentance, come forward as ushered to receive a cross of ashes on your forehead.

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

**C** Amen.

*After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence. There is no statement of dismissal.*

### 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of  
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -  
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -

dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress  
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode

Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -  
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that  
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to

pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O  
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten  
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing

from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

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

## Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**C** Amen.

**P** I will go to the altar of God,

**C** to God my exceeding joy.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

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

**C** O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**C** Amen.

**P** Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

**C** Yes.

**P** Let it be done for you as you believe.

**P** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## Opening Versicles

*p.260*

**L** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**L** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C** slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

**L** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

**C** let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

**L** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

**C** He was bruised for our iniquities.

**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**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.

Old Testament Canticle

*Refrain*

■ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the  
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that  
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,  
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -  
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done  
glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the  
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -  
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the  
Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
 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.

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

*Sit*

**Reading**

*Exodus 2:23–25*

**R** A reading from Exodus, the second chapter.

<sup>23</sup>During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. <sup>24</sup>And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup>God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Reading**

*2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

**R** The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, chapter 5.

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>1</sup>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor

and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Reading

*Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

**P** A reading from Matthew, chapter 6.

<sup>1</sup>[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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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. . . .

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Responsory

**P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

*Stand*

## Ten Commandments

**C** You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

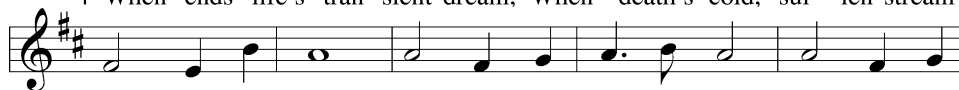
**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.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

*Sit*

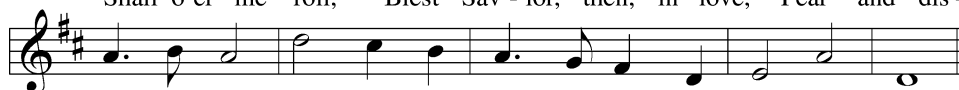
## 702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;  
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my  
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my  
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's  
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!  
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.  
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

**Sermon**

*The Good News of a God Who Hears and Answers Cries Exodus 2:23–25*

**Offering**

*610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me sts. 1–2*

*Stand*

**Litany (Lent)**

*LSB 249*

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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 mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For Matthew our synodical presidents and Jon district president, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For Donald our president and Gregory our governor, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
  
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer.*

- L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:
- C** **To You, O Lord.**

**Collect of the Day**

- L** 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.**

## Collect for the Word

**P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Evening Prayer

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.  
Amen.

## 956 Create in Me

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12  
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Blessing

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** Amen.

## 922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

sts. 1-4



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.  
 2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.  
 3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;  
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My  
 Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you  
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My  
 I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.  
 heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.  
 Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.  
 Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing— You are My own.  
 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.  
 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.  
 Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008  
 Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.  
 Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219  
 Tune: Public domain

### Announcements

**Adult Sunday School** is at **9am** on Sunday mornings studying our Lutheran identity.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am** studying the Proverbs.

**Church Council** next meeting is **Mar 15** at **8am**.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **Mar 7** at **9am**.

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** on **Feb 18**. Service at **6pm**.

In preparation for Easter, **Church Clean-up Day** is Sat **Mar 28** starting at **9am**.

### Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.