



The Time Is Now

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024

Service of Preparation

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Use this time in quiet preparation for the Lord's Supper, perhaps with the help of page 129 in the front portion of the hymnary.

CALL TO WORSHIP

*If God be for us, who can be against us?
He who did not spare his only Son, but gave him up for us all,
Shall he not with him freely give us all things?*

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: O almighty God, merciful Father: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to 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: I ask each of you, in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in his name?

C: I do.

P: Upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the place and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you!
Amen.

HYMN

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus | #206

Service of the Word

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and merciful God, you always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and receive 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.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:13–21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?”

¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” ’

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 3:1–3

¹ “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12–19

¹² “Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. ¹⁴ Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. ¹⁶ Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, “Spare your people, LORD. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ”

¹⁸ Then the LORD was jealous for his land and took pity on his people.

¹⁹ The LORD replied to them: “I am sending you grain, new wine and olive oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.

ANTHEM

Create in Me a Clean Heart

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall 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 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 of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

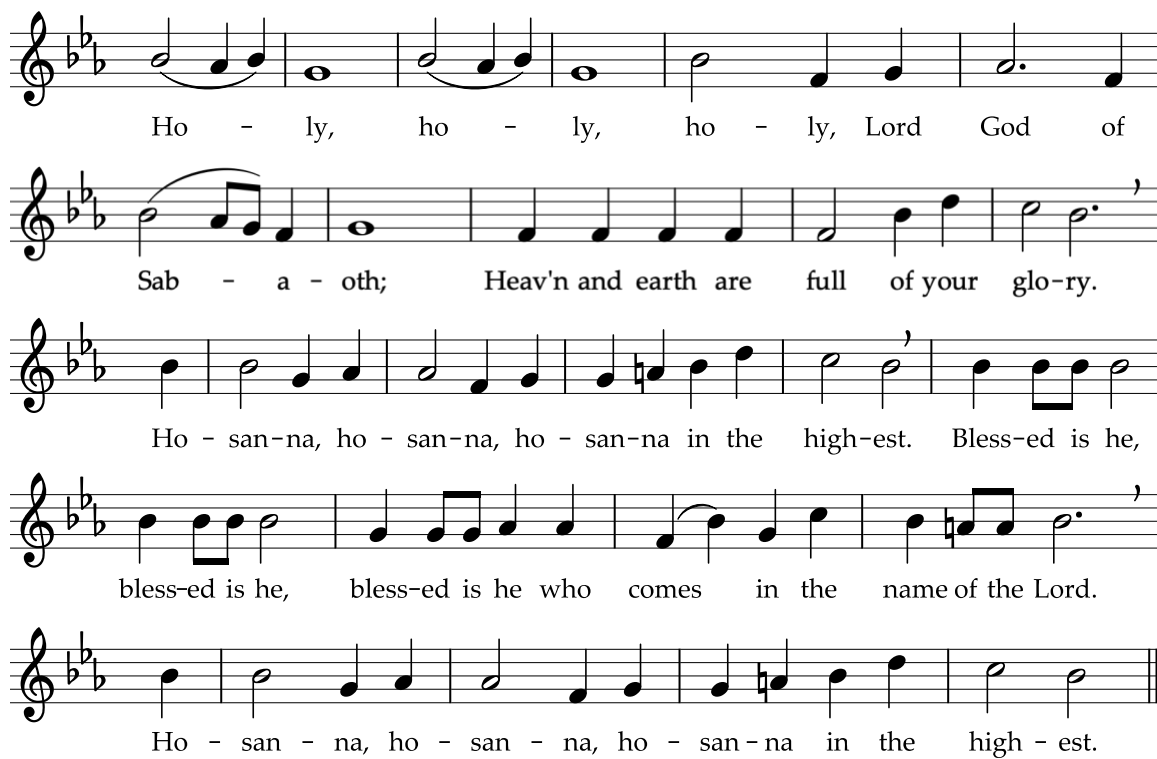
Service of the Sacrament

The members of King of Grace invite members of other ELS or WELS congregations to commune with us. We ask everyone else to please visit with our pastors before our next communion service.

P: Let us pray: It is truly, good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. You ask your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Passover feast, renewing their zeal in faith and life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and worship your glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

HYMN

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Sab - a - oth; 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.

CONSECRATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND RECEPTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Agnus Dei

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

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive! | #426

THANKSGIVING HYMN

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace
ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry
of your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, for - ev - er - more. A - men.

PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Lord God the Father, that you have given your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. We thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, that you have carried in your sacred body all our sins, and by your blood have wiped out all our betrayals. We thank you, Lord the Holy Spirit, that you have created in our hearts true faith, that we don't trust anything for our salvation except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

O God, grant us your grace, that we may perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven on the basis of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Open our eyes by your Holy Spirit, that—in the power of our Redeemer's resurrection—we may day by day put off sin and never abandon the Lord Jesus Christ. Keep us in faith until we see him face to face in life eternal. We ask it all in Christ's name. Amen.

ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

*Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!*

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody consists of three measures: the first measure has a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note on B4; the second measure has a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, and a quarter note on B4; the third measure has a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note on B4. The notes are connected by a slur. The staff ends with a double bar line.

Preacher.....Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad | **Liturgist**.....Pastor Bernt Tweit
OrganistKaren Merseth | **Choir Director** Allen Labitzky



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