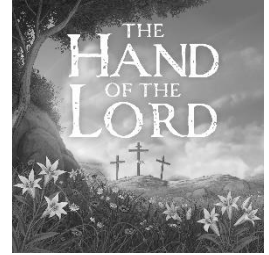


Ash Wednesday, 2025
The Hand of the Lord
“The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives”

Lent reminds us that the Christian life is one of repeated, daily repentance and faith because, though our deliverance is made sure, we walk by faith in the “not yet” of complete holiness and final release from sin. Repentance means we come this night with empty hands, that is, the confession of our total need of God’s mercy, grace, and deliverance. We come to the God who has revealed Himself in love in the forgiveness of our sin by means of His own substitutionary sacrifice in our own human flesh for us and for our salvation. We are welcomed by the repentance and faith freely given by the hand of the Lord.



THE OPENING HYMN #613 *“To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All”*



1 To Thee, om - ni - scient Lord of all, In grief and shame I
2 O Lord, my God, to Thee I pray: O cast me not in
3 O Je - sus, let Thy pre - cious blood Be to my soul a



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



The sins of thought and deed and word. They press me
But let Him draw to Thee my heart That tru - ly
But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my



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

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(page 290 in the hymnal)*

THE PSALM Psalm 51:1-12, 17 (ESV)

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: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

C: a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

(please be seated)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Joel 2:12-19 (ESV)

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

THE EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2 (ESV)

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. 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" [*Isaiah 49:8*]. Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE (*sung*) (*page 157 in the hymnal*) (*Joel 2:13*)

Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 10-16 (ESV)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord,

[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.

(please be seated)

THE HYMN #615 "When in the Hour of Deepest Need"



1 When in the hour of deep - est need We know not
2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone That we may
3 For You have prom - ised, Lord, to heed Your chil - dren's
4 And so we come, O God, to - day And all our



where to look for aid; When days and nights of
meet be - fore Your throne; To You, O faith - ful
cries in time of need Through Him whose name a -
woes be - fore You lay; For sore - ly tried, cast



anx - ious thought No help or coun - sel yet have brought,
God, we cry For res - cue in our mis - er - y.
lone is great, Our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.
down, we stand, Per - plexed by fears on ev - 'ry hand.

**5 O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;
Absolve us through Your boundless grace.
Be with us in our anguish still;
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.**

**6 So we with all our hearts each day
To You our glad thanksgiving pay,
Then walk obedient to Your Word,
And now and ever praise You, Lord.**

THE SERMON "The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives" Text: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS (pages 192-193 in the hymnal)

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

Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

(please stand)

THE PRAYERS ~ The Litany (pages 288-289 in the hymnal)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *(1 Corinthians 11:26)*

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE 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.

THE PEACE

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

C: Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI ~ The Lamb of God *(page 163 in the hymnal)*

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION AND HYMNS

#611 "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 Balm to heal the
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns 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. He sus - tains the
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.
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

#435 "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in ✠ peace.

C: Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Almighty, merciful God and Father, You provide the true bread from heaven, Jesus Christ, and in His body and blood You generously forgive our sins. Grant us the power of Your Holy Spirit, that, fed and nourished at this Table, we may daily respond with faith active in fruits of love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)