



## Silent Prayer and Meditation

*The congregation prepares in silence.*

### Holy Gospel

*John 3:3*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

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

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

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

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

### *Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

*LSB 915*

- 1 **Today Your mercy calls us**  
**To wash away our sin.**  
**However great our trespass,**  
**Whatever we have been,**  
**However long from mercy**  
**Our hearts have turned away,**  
**Your precious blood can wash us**  
**And make us clean today.**
- 2 **Today Your gate is open,**  
**And all who enter in**  
**Shall find a Father's welcome**  
**And pardon for their sin.**  
**The past shall be forgotten,**  
**A present joy be giv'n,**  
**A future grace be promised,**  
**A glorious crown in heav'n.**
- 3 **Today our Father calls us;**  
**His Holy Spirit waits;**  
**His blessed angels gather**  
**Around the heav'nly gates.**  
**No question will be asked us**  
**How often we have come;**  
**Although we oft have wandered,**  
**It is our Father's home.**

**4 O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You  
When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open,  
One ear will hear our prayer.**

## **Invocation**

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

**C** Amen.

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

## **Reading**

*Ezekiel 36:22a,25-31*

“Therefore say to the Israelites, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. <sup>28</sup> Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. <sup>31</sup> Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Create In Me**

*Solo*

## **Psalm**

*Psalm 51:1–15 (antiphon: v. 17)*

**P** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**C** a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**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,

**C** and cleanse me from my sin!

**P** For I know my transgressions,

**C** and my sin is ever before me.

*Silence*

**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,

**C** and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**P** Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

**C** and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

**P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**C** wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

*Silence*

**P** Let me hear joy and gladness;

**C** let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

**P** Hide your face from my sins,

**C** and blot out all my iniquities.

**P** Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**C** and renew a right spirit within me.

**P** Cast me not away from your presence,

**C** and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**P** Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

**C** and uphold me with a willing spirit.

*Silence*

**P** Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

**C** and sinners will return to you.

**P** Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,

**C** and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** and my mouth will declare your praise.

**P** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**C** a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**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.**

*Stand*

### **Confession of Sins**

**P** Holy and merciful Father, we confess to you 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. For our failure to love you, with all our heart, mind, and strength,

**C we repent, O Lord.**

**P** For our failure to love our neighbors as ourselves,

**C we repent, O Lord.**

**P** For our holding on to grudges and refusing to forgive others as you have forgiven us,

**C we repent, O Lord.**

**P** For our reluctance to share generously and joyfully the time, talent, and treasures you provide,

**C we repent, O Lord.**

**P** For our suspicion of strangers, which sometimes hinders our sharing of the Gospel,

**C we repent, O Lord.**

**P** For our refusal to speak well of our neighbor and to put the best construction on our neighbor's words and actions,

**C we repent, O Lord.**

**P** For our arrogance toward others,

**C we repent, O Lord.**

**P** For all of the ways in which the confession of our lips does not show forth in our lives,

**C we repent, O Lord.**

**P** For the hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class, family from family, neighbor from neighbor,

**C Father forgive us.**

**P** For the covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

**C** Father, forgive us.

**P** For the greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth you have called us to care for,

**C** Father, forgive us.

**P** For our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

**C** Father, forgive us.

**P** For our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the sick, the homeless, the refugee, the stranger, the hungry, the thirsty, and the rejected,

**C** Father, forgive us.

**P** For the lust which dishonors the bodies of men, women, and children,

**C** Father, forgive us.

**P** For the pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God, and the arrogance that causes us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought,

**C** Father, forgive us.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

*Silence*

## **Imposition of Ashes**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, your people from ages past put on sackcloth and ashes so that their inner penitence might take physical form. As we shape these ashes into the form of your Son's cross, grant that they not only show our penitence but also our confident hope in your forgiveness for his sake; 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*

*The people may come forward at this time to be marked with the cross. As the pastor applies ashes, the following is said:*

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

**R** Amen.

***Just as I Am, without One Plea***

*LSB 570*

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 2 Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

***Lord Jesus, Think on Me***

*LSB 610*

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me  
And purge away my sin;  
From worldly passions set me free  
And make me pure within.**
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
By anxious thoughts oppressed;  
Let me Your loving servant be  
And taste Your promised rest.**

- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me  
Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery,  
O be my health and life!**
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me  
Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity  
Point out Your chosen way.**
- 5 Lord Jesus, think on me  
That, when this life is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see  
And share Your joy at last.**

### **Absolution**

**P** The ashes upon our foreheads declare what is true. The wages of sin is death, and though we have received new life in Holy Baptism, our old self continues to fight God's promise and reap sin and death in our lives. The shape of the ashes upon our foreheads also declares what is true. God sent his only Son to die in our place and be the death of death, and to bring new and abundant life. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, we have the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal salvation. As a called and ordained servant of the word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### ***Jesus Sinners Doth Receive***

*LSB 609*

- 1 Jesus sinners doth 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 doth receive.**
- 2 We deserve but grief and shame,  
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;  
Here our ills have perfect healing.  
Firmly in these words believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**4 I, a sinner, come to Thee  
With a penitent confession.  
Savior, mercy show to me;  
Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
From the Law I stand acquitted.  
Christ hath purchased my release  
And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

## **Homily**

### **Reading**

*Ephesians 4:17-24;5:1-2*

<sup>17</sup> So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Lord's Prayer**

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into ev'ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then Thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

## Reading

*2 Corinthians 5:14-21*

<sup>14</sup> For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

### Sending

**P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



**SPIRIT of CHRIST**

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Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another, reaching out to all people, proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

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