

Music Today

Mark Gould

**As We Gather:** Throughout the Bible, ashes have been associated with humility, repentance, and mortality. In Genesis, we read of the great patriarch: "Abraham answered and said, 'Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes'" (Genesis 18:27). In Job, we read that the long-suffering Job said of his life: "I have become like dust and ashes" (Job 30:19b). Daniel the prophet states: "Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking Him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes" (Daniel 9:3). Ash Wednesday brings us the opportunity to follow the pattern set by our spiritual ancestors and to begin the observance of "a holy Lent" as we come before the Lord in ashes.

**Gathering Songs**                      **On My Heart Imprint Your Image LSB 422**

**Welcome & Invocation**

Pastor Aaron Boerst

**Opening Song**                      **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God LSB 656**



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat - ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -  
your us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not  
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to  
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of  
o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle  
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He  
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's  
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's  
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978 Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858 Tune: Public domain

**Confession and Forgiveness** Joel 2:12

Pastor: As we begin this Lenten season, we may not be wearing sackcloth and ashes, but we are heeding our Lord's call to "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." We join in King David's prayer of confession in Psalm 51.

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**People:** a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.  
 Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;  
**People:** according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.  
 Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
**People:** and cleanse me from my sin!  
 Pastor: For I know my transgressions,  
**People:** and my sin is ever before me.  
 Pastor: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,  
**People:** so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.  
 Pastor: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
**People:** wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
 Pastor: Let me hear joy and gladness;  
**People:** let the bones that You have broken rejoice.  
 Pastor: Hide Your face from my sins,  
**People:** and blot out all my iniquities.  
 Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**People:** and renew a right spirit within me.  
 Pastor: Cast me not away from Your presence,  
**People:** and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.  
 Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
**People:** and uphold me with a willing spirit.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor: I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

**People:** Amen.

### Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.

**People:** Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

### Old Testament Reading

*Joel 2:12–19*

*(God responds to His penitent people.)*

<sup>12</sup>“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,  
 “return to me with all your heart,  
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>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?  
<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
<sup>16</sup>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.  
<sup>17</sup>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?'"  
<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD became jealous for his land  
and had pity on his people.  
<sup>19</sup>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."

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Reading**

*2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

*(Today is the day of salvation.)*

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

*(Jesus teaches His disciples about fasting.)*

<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."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Song of the Day O Lord, throughout These Forty Days LSB 418**



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your  
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.  
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.  
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930 Tune: The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635, Edinburgh Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858 Tune: Public domain

**An Excerpt from C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters***

**Sermon**

**Silencing Screwtape: PRIDE OR HUMILITY**

*Pastor Aaron Boerst*

**Creed – Nicene Creed**

**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 sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will 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 in 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.**

### **Prayers of the Church**

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

***Local concerns may be added by congregational elder here.***

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**Imposition of Ashes** *Genesis 3:19*

Pastor: 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 suffering 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.

Our Almighty and everlasting God spoke to Adam and Eve in the garden and said, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." Your people of ancient times wore sackcloth and ashes as a sign of repentance. We remember our sinfulness through the ashes and remember the gracious gift of forgiveness through the cross of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

We now bring our humble offerings to our dear Father in heaven, and receive the sign of His Cross, remembering our baptisms, and the manner in which we were given the privilege to be called children of God.

**Offering** **Ashes**

*Offerings may be brought up and collected at the base of the altar. Those who wish to receive the mark of ashes upon their forehead may come forward. The ashes are an ancient sign of mortality and death, sorrow and forgiveness, used at the beginning of Lent. As the ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says, "Remember that you are dust, to dust you shall return, and from dust you shall rise."*

**Presentation of Gifts**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [*Psalm 145:15, James 1:17*]

**People: Amen.**

**Holy Communion**

**Preface**

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**The Words of Our Lord** [*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*]

**Proclamation of Christ**

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. [*1 Cor. 11:26*]

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** [*Revelation 22:20*]

**Lord's Prayer** [*Matthew 6:9–13*]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**People: 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.**

## Distribution

### Christ, the Life of All the Living LSB 420

#### Christ, the Life of All the Living LSB 420 v1

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of  
death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing  
To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,  
death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Das grosse Cantional, 1687, Darmstadt Text and tune: Public domain

## Announcements

### Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

### Sending Song My Song Is Love Unknown LSB 430 sts. 1, 6–7

1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to  
6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might  
7 Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di -  
me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly  
have; In death no friend - ly tomb But what a strang - er  
vine! Nev - er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like  
be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
gave. What may I say? Heav'n was His home  
Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise  
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
But mine the tomb Where - in He lay.  
I all my days Could glad - ly spend!

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