

REFLECTIONS on REPENTANCE

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday

Series Theme

Realizing Our Need for Repentance

Using David's great, penitential Psalm 51 as our guide, this year's Midweek series of Lenten reflections explores the depths of our sinful depravity, the brokenness of our relationship with God, our dire need for rescue, and the good news of forgiveness, cleansing, and rejoicing in our restored relationship with God and the promise of eternal life through Jesus our Saviour.

Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

51D God, Be Merciful to Me

Psalm 51D sts. 1-4



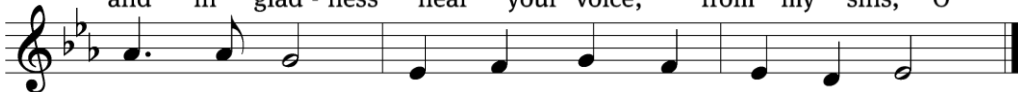
1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on your grace I
2 My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my
3 I am e - vil, born in sin; you de - sire all
4 Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust by your wrath and



rest my plea; your com - pas - sions o - ver - flow,
soul op - press; I have sinned a - gainst your grace
truth with - in. You a - lone my Sav - ior are,
judg - ment just, let my con - trite heart re - jice



blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me
and pro - voked you to your face; I con - fess your
teach your wis - dom to my heart; make me pure, your
and in glad - ness hear your voice; from my sins, O



pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
judg - ment just, speech - less, in your mer - cy trust.
grace be - stow, wash me whit - er than the snow.
hide your face, blot them out in bound - less grace.

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt.
Tune: Richard Redhead
Text and tune: Public domain

Psalm Prayer

Almighty and merciful Father, you freely forgive those who, as David of old, acknowledge and confess their sins. Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Introduction for the Beginning of Lent

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbours, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and our neighbour.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, to ask our Heavenly Father for forgiveness, and to open your heart before Him.

Confession of Sins

P: Holy and merciful Father,

C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned

by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: All our past unfaithfulness - the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives -

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people –

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves –

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work –

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us –

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Forgive us for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty -

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us –

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

P: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will –

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us –

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

982 With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh CW 982 sts. 1-2, 4



1 With bro - ken heart and con - trite sigh, a trem - bling
2 I bow my head by sin dis - tressed, with deep and
4 No gifts, no deeds that I have done can for a



sin - ner, Lord, I cry. Your par - d'ning grace is
pain - ful guilt op - pressed, the cross of Christ my
sin - gle sin a - tone. To Cal - va - ry a -



rich and free— O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
on - ly plea— O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
lone I flee— O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text: Cornelius Elven, 1791–1873, alt.
Tune: Jeremiah Clarke, c. 1674–1707
Text and tune: Public domain

(A moment of silence for reflection and personal confession)

Absolution

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He is ready, willing, and able to forgive all your sins.

Therefore, as a called servant of the word – and by His authority - I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son †, and of the Holy Spirit.

May the LORD's forgiveness strengthen your faith, awaken peace and joy in your heart, and move you to thank Him by living according to his Word.

C: Amen.

393 Savior, When in Dust to You

CW 393



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom - age due,
2 By your help - less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,



when, re - pent - ant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes,
by your days of deep dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,
by the vault whose dark a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God,



O, by all your pains and woe suf - fered once for us be - low,
by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of th' in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,
O, from earth to heav'n re - stored, might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord,



bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn, O turn a fa - v'ring eye, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

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

Old Testament Lesson

2 Samuel 12:1–13 (EHV)

¹So the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came and told him this:

There were two men in a city. One was rich and one poor. ²The rich man had a large number of flocks and herds. ³The poor man did not own anything except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought.

He raised it so that it grew up together with him and his children. It ate from his food and drank from his cup. It slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. ⁴When a traveler came to the rich man, the rich man was unwilling to take an animal from his flock or from his herd to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. So he took the lamb from the poor man and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

⁵David's anger flared up against that man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this is as good as dead. ⁶In place of that lamb, he will restore four lambs, because he did this and had no pity."

⁷Nathan told David, "You are the man."

This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says.

I anointed you king over Israel. I rescued you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave the house of your master to you, and I gave the wives of your master into your embrace. I gave you the house of Israel and the house of Judah. If this was too little, I would have added even more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in his eyes? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword. You have taken his wife as your own wife. You have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰So now the sword will not depart from your house forever, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

¹¹This is what the LORD says. Look! I am raising up disaster against you from your own house. Right in front of your eyes I will take your wives and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie down with your wives in the sight of the sun. ¹²Because you acted in secret, I will do this in front of all Israel in broad daylight.

¹³David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan said to David, "The LORD himself has put away your sin. You will not die.

51D God, Be Merciful to Me

Psalm 51D sts. 5-8



5 Gra - cious God, my heart re - new, make my spir - it
6 Sin - ners then shall learn from me and to God re -
7 No at - tempt - ed sac - ri - fice has ac - cept - ance
8 Pros - per Zi - on in your grace and her bro - ken



right and true; let me not a - ban - doned be,
stored shall be; Sav - ior, all my guilt re - move,
in your eyes; bro - ken hearts are in your sight
walls re - place; then our right - eous sac - ri - fice



let your Spir - it dwell in me; your sal - va - tion's
and my tongue shall sing your love; touch my si - lent
more than sac - ri - fi - cial rite; con - trite spir - it,
shall de - light your ho - ly eyes; free - will of - f'ings,



joy im - part, stead - fast make my will - ing heart.
lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise ac - cord.
plead - ing cries, you, O God, will not de - spise.
glad - ly made, on your al - tar shall be laid.

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt.
Tune: Richard Redhead
Text and tune: Public domain

Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2 (EHV)

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

¹As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ²For he says:

At a favorable time I listened to you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.

Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain 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.

C: Amen.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 18:9–14 (EHV)

⁹Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’

¹³“However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

¹⁴“I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

653 Lord, to You I Make Confession

CW 653



1 Lord, to you I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and
 2 Yet, though con-science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will
 3 For your Son has suf - fered for me, giv'n him - self to
 4 Lord, on you I cast my bur - den— sink it in the



gone a - stray; I have mul - ti - plied trans - gres - sion,
 seek your face. Though your child I dare not call me,
 res - cue me, died to save me and re - store me,
 deep - est sea! Let me know your gra - cious par - don,



cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by you to
 yet re - ceive me to your grace. Do not for my
 rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -
 cleanse me from in - iq - ui - ty. Let your Spir - it



see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at your ter - rors.
 sins for - sake me, do not let your wrath o'er - take me.
 lone can van - quish these dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
 leave me nev - er, make me on - ly yours for - ev - er.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Lenten Devotional Text & Theme

Acts 2:36-39 (EHV)

Recognize our Need to Repent

- 1) *God confronts our sin and*
- 2) *Leads us to trust His promised mercy.*

For the choir director. A psalm by David. When Nathan the prophet came to him after he had gone to Bathsheba. ¹ Be gracious to me, God, according to your mercy. Erase my acts of rebellion according to the greatness of your compassion. ² Scrub me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.

Prayer for Ash Wednesday

P: Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.

P: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.

P: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Saviour's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who

willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

1074 Sanctus (Eve) - SEELENBRÄUTIGAM

CW 1074

Tune: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM



1 Round God's throne on high blaz - ing an - gels cry, sing - ing,
2 Blest be Da - vid's Son! In God's name he comes, grace and



“Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, we praise you for your glo - ry,
par - don to pro - vide us. Sing, “Ho - san - na in the high - est!”



shin - ing bright - ly forth, fill - ing heav'n and earth.”
Je - sus, hear our plea: come and set us free!

Text: Michael D. Schultz Tune: Adam Drese

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P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

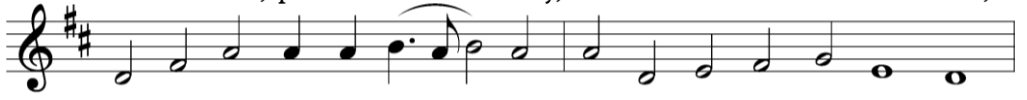
C: Amen.

947 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

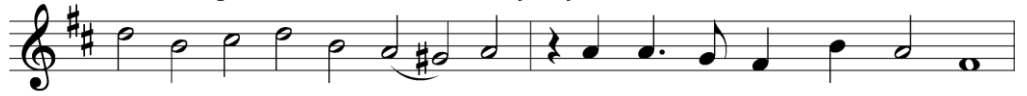
CW 947



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,



ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.



All sin you car - ried for us, else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
All sin you car - ried for us, else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
All sin you car - ried for us, else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
your peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Distribution And Thanksgiving

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

- M: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: Amen.

405 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

CW 405

On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
that life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures have no pow'r to hide your face.
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, and my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.
Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758
Text and tune: Public domain



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Midweek Lent Services – Reflections on Repentance

“The Lord is not slow to do what he promised. . . . Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). Luther began his famous debate theses noting that Scripture’s call to repentance is intended as a way of life. Using David’s great penitential Psalm 51, penned following his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah, this series of Lenten reflections explores the depths of our sinful depravity, the brokenness of our relationship with God, our dire need for rescue, and the good news of forgiveness, cleansing, and rejoicing in our restored relationship with God and the promise of eternal life through Jesus our Savior.

Mar. 12 – Revealing Our Sinful Nature

Psalm 51:5

Led by: Pastor Digman

Mar. 18 – Recognizing Against Whom We Sin

Psalm 51:3-4

Led by: Pastor Kock

Mar. 26 – Removing Our Guilt

Psalm 51:8-9

Led by: Pastor Sullivan

Apr. 2 – Remembering God’s Perfect Demands

Psalm 51:6

Led by: Pastor Digman

Apr. 9 – Relying on God’s Grace

Psalm 51:7

Led by: Pastor Kock