

**P** 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 sufferings 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.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lenten time for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** God the Father in heaven,

**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Holy Spirit,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Spare us, good Lord.

**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;

by Your holy nativity;

by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;

by Your agony and bloody sweat;

by Your cross and passion;

by Your precious death and burial;

by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;

and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** In all time of our tribulation;

in all time of our prosperity;

in the hour of death;

and in the day of judgment:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** We poor sinners implore You

**C** to hear us, O Lord.

**P** To prosper the preaching of Your Word;

to bless our prayer and meditation;

to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;

and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**P** To draw all to Yourself;

to bless those who are instructed in the faith;

to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers;

to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;

and to have mercy on us all:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**P** To turn our hearts to You;

to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;

and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C** we implore You to hear us.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**C** grant us Your peace.  
**P** O Christ,  
**C** hear us.  
**P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** O Christ,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy. Amen.

**P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## Psalm

*Psalm 51:1–13*

Have mercy on me, O God,  
 according to your steadfast love;  
 according to your abundant mercy  
 blot out my transgressions.  
 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
 and cleanse me from my sin!  
 For I know my transgressions,  
 and my sin is ever before me.  
 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
 and done what is evil in your sight,  
 so that you may be justified in your words  
 and blameless in your judgment.  
 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
 and in sin did my mother conceive me.  
 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
 and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.  
 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
 wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
 let the bones that you have broken rejoice.  
 Hide your face from my sins,  
 and blot out all my iniquities.  
 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
 and renew a right spirit within me.  
 Cast me not away from your presence,  
 and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
 and uphold me with a willing spirit.  
 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
 and sinners will return to you.

## 607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

- 1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee,  
 In trial and tribulation;  
 Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,  
 Lord, hear my supplication.  
 If Thou rememb'rst ev'ry sin,  
 Who then could heaven ever win  
 Or stand before Thy presence?
- 2 Thy love and grace alone avail  
 To blot out my transgression;  
 The best and holiest deeds must fail  
 To break sin's dread oppression.  
 Before Thee none can boasting stand,

But all must fear Thy strict demand  
And live alone by mercy.

- 3 Therefore my hope is in the Lord  
And not in mine own merit;  
It rests upon His faithful Word  
To them of contrite spirit  
That He is merciful and just;  
This is my comfort and my trust.  
His help I wait with patience.
- 4 And though it tarry through the night  
And till the morning waken,  
My heart shall never doubt His might  
Nor count itself forsaken.  
O Israel, trust in God your Lord.  
Born of the Spirit and the Word,  
Now wait for His appearing.
- 5 Though great our sins, yet greater still  
Is God's abundant favor;  
His hand of mercy never will  
Abandon us, nor waver.  
Our shepherd good and true is He,  
Who will at last His Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow.

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## Reading

*Jonah 3*

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

## Reading Response

- A This is the Word of the Lord.  
 C Thanks be to God.

## Reading

*2 Peter 1:2–11*

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Reading Response

- A This is the Word of the Lord.  
 C Thanks be to God.

## Reading

Matthew 6:16–21

[Jesus said:] "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."

## Reading Response

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Sermon "A contrite heart"

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
- C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

## Magnificat

LSB 231

- C** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
- I** for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
- II** For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
- I** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
- II** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
- I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- II** He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
- I** He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
- II** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Kyrie

LSB 233

- C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

## 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.

## Collects

- L** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** And let my cry come to You.

## Collect of the Day

- P** 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.

## Collect for Peace

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

LSB 234

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 234

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

**C** Amen.

## 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

1 On my heart imprint Your image,  
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures  
Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation,  
And my glory and salvation!

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## Acknowledgments

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