

**The Lord's Supper: The Salutory Gift**  
*Immanuel Lutheran Church, Altamont*

**+ ASH WEDNESDAY +**  
March 2, 2022, 6:30 PM

## WHY DO WE PUT ASHES ON OUR FOREHEADS?

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

For nearly a thousand years, these words have been spoken to young and old alike as the sign of the cross is traced on their foreheads with ashes—the Imposition of Ashes, as it has come to be known. During the last half of the 20th century, Lutherans have also begun to make use of this ancient rite, and indeed, it has been approved for use in our hymnal LSB. And so, as our catechism is prone to ask: “What does this mean?” Where did this rite come from, and how can it be used meaningfully in LCMS congregations today?

### **Ashes in the Bible**

The Bible contains a number of references to ashes and dust (cf. Joshua 7:6; 1 Samuel 4:12; 2 Samuel 1:2, 15:32; Job 2:12, 16:15; Jeremiah 25:34; Lamentations 2:10; Ezekiel 27:30; Jonah 3:6). In fact, the Lord's curse on Adam, “dust you are, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19) is echoed in the Imposition of Ashes formula. In the New Testament, Jesus declares: “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes” (Matthew 11:21). Thus, in the Bible, ashes carry a two-fold meaning: as a sign of human mortality (Genesis 3:19) and as a sign of public repentance (Matthew 11:21).

### **Ashes in Church History**

This understanding carried over into the early and medieval church. Tertullian (ca. 160-225) describes the use of sackcloth and ashes in the penance of an adulterer before his pastor. Originally, ashes were reserved only for public penitents—i.e., murderers, adulterers and others who had fallen away from the church because of grave public sin but desired reconciliation. Such reconciliation could occur at a variety of times during the year, but by the medieval period, the beginning of Lent became a primary season of the church year for that reconciliation to take place.

By the 12th century, ashes became specifically associated with the beginning of Lent, thus providing the first day of Lent with its name, Ash Wednesday. However, by this time, everybody—pastors and people alike—had ashes either sprinkled on their head or traced on their foreheads in the sign of the cross. By the time of the Reformation, the imposition of ashes was a regular mainstay of Lenten piety and practice.

However, Lutherans at the time of the Reformation did not choose to retain the Imposition of Ashes. The reasons for this are not entirely clear since there is very little written for or against this practice by Luther and his colleagues. Thus, although Lutherans began Lent with Ash Wednesday, they did not retain the use of ashes as part of their Ash Wednesday order of service.

### **Ashes Today?**

A contemporary Lutheran appropriation of the Imposition of Ashes should begin with the two-fold biblical understanding of ashes: as a sign of our mortality and as a sign of our repentance. Likewise, the traditional formula, “Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” is most appropriate, since it paraphrases the words of God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:19). By receiving the ashes, the worshipper acknowledges that God's judgment against our sin is right and just. But the ashes are also made in the sign of the cross—the

very instrument by which our Lord took upon himself the punishment for our sin, in our place. Thus, the cross of ashes serves to remind us that we are sinners, and that Christ died for us sinners.

From: The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod , Commission On Worship

## **LENT 2022: LIFE-GIVING FRUIT**

Adam was given free access to the tree of life, to eat of its fruit and live forever (Genesis 2:8–9). The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, however, was off-limits. “For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die,” God warned (v. 17). Rather than obey God’s voice, Adam and Eve threw caution to the wind and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thus bringing the whole world into sin and ruin (Genesis 3:1–19). Now barred from the tree of life, Adam and his offspring are cursed to eat the food of mortals. But God sent to the world a new Adam, one who would obey the voice of His Father, one who would rescue Adam’s fallen sons and daughters from death. On the tree of the cross, the Second Adam, Jesus Christ, removed the curse by becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3:13). The door to paradise has been opened up once again in His crucified and risen flesh and blood (Revelation 22:1–5, 14). His body and blood are for the Christian a life-giving fruit, for “whoever has the Son has life” (1 John 5:2).

### **(Stand as the minister enters the sanctuary.)**

#### **ADDRESS**

**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 Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

*(Silence for reflection.)*

## LITANY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

**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.**

## **CONCLUDING COLLECT**

**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.**

*(Sit. The pastor and assistants receive ashes first, followed by the congregation. Using the right thumb, the pastor or an assistant places the ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying:)*

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

*(After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence. There is no statement of dismissal.)*

## **HYMN 607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee (Sung during imposition of ashes)**

**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'rest 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.**

Text: Public domain

*(After all have received the ashes, the service continues with the Service of Confession and Absolution in the Divine Service or with the rite of Corporate Confession and Absolution.)*

## **+ CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION +**

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

## INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

## EXHORTATION

LSB 184

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

## CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB 184

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

## ABSOLUTION

LSB 185

**P** Upon this your confession, 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.

**C** Amen.

## + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

### **PSALM 34:4–10; antiphon Psalm 145:16, responsive reading**

<sup>145:16</sup> **You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every |  
living thing.**

<sup>34:4</sup> | sought the LORD, and He answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.

<sup>5</sup> **Those who look to Him are radiant,  
and their faces shall never be ashamed.**

<sup>6</sup> This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him  
and saved him out of all his troubles.

<sup>7</sup> **The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,  
and delivers them.**

<sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!  
Blessèd is the man who takes refuge in Him!

<sup>9</sup> **Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints,  
for those who fear Him have no lack!**

<sup>10</sup> The young lions suffer want and hunger;  
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

**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.**

<sup>145:16</sup> **You open Your hand;  
You satisfy the desire of every living thing.**

## KYRIE

LSB 186



**☐** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**☐** The Lord be with you.



**☐** And with thy spir - it.

**☐** Let us pray.

Almighty God, the First Adam disobeyed You, barring humanity from the tree of life and casting us into the dust of death. Because You do not desire the death of any sinner, You sent your only-begotten Son, Jesus—the Second Adam—to rescue and redeem us from the curse of sin and death by having Him become our sin and die our death. Grant that we, during this season of Lent and all seasons, follow Jesus, whose obedience unto death, even death on the tree of the cross, has earned our way back to the tree of life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



(Sit)

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Genesis 3:1–15*

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

<sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

<sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

<sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup>And he said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel.”





☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## 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 shall 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 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.

(Sit)

## **HYMN 561 “The Tree of Life”**

- 1 The tree of life with ev'ry good  
In Eden's holy orchard stood,  
And of its fruit so pure and sweet  
God let the man and woman eat.  
Yet in this garden also grew  
Another tree, of which they knew;  
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned  
Against whose eating God had warned.**
- 2 The stillness of that sacred grove  
Was broken, as the serpent strove  
With tempting voice Eve to beguile  
And Adam too by sin defile.  
O day of sadness when the breath  
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
Its awful poison first displayed  
Within the world so newly made.**

3 What mercy God showed to our race,  
 A plan of rescue by His grace:  
 In sending One from woman's seed,  
 The One to fill our greatest need—  
 For on a tree uplifted high  
 His only Son for sin would die,  
 Would drink the cup of scorn and dread  
 To crush the ancient serpent's head!

4 Now from that tree of Jesus' shame  
 Flows life eternal in His name;  
 For all who trust and will believe,  
 Salvation's living fruit receive.  
 And of this fruit so pure and sweet  
 The Lord invites the world to eat,  
 To find within this cross of wood  
 The tree of life with ev'ry good.

Text: © 1993 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001032

## SERMON: “Life-Giving Fruit”

### THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

#### + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

#### PREFACE

LSB 194

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

#### PROPER PREFACE (ABBREVIATED)

LSB 194

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

#### SANCTUS

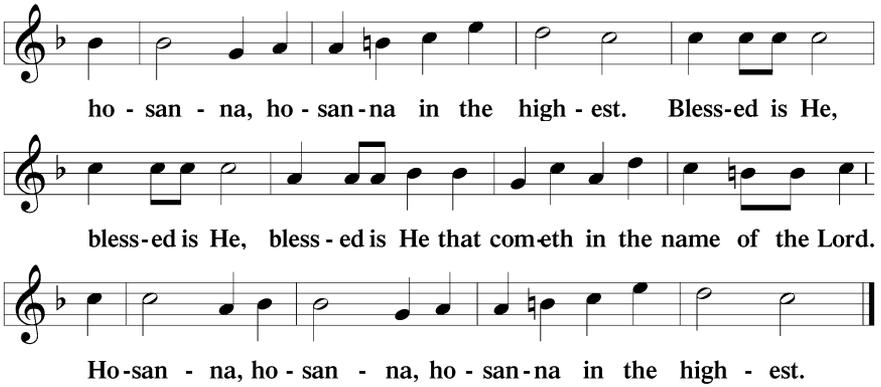
LSB 195



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

LSB 196

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 WORDS OF OUR LORD**

LSB 197

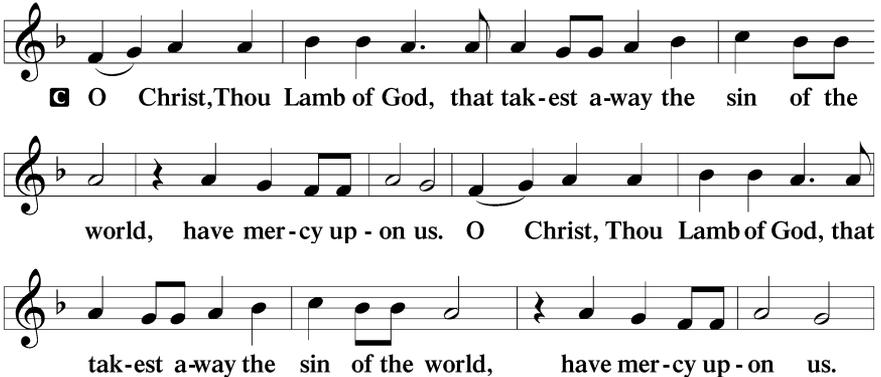
**PAX DOMINI**

LSB 197

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

**AGNUS DEI**

LSB 198



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

(Sit)

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

435 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

- 1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,  
Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain  
Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide,  
Opened when our Savior died.
- 2 Come in poverty and meanness,  
Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness,  
From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white;  
Ye shall walk with God in light.
- 3 Come in sorrow and contrition,  
Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission,  
Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore;  
They that drink shall thirst no more.
- 4 They that drink shall live forever;  
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never  
Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died,  
Sealed when He was glorified.

Text: Public domain

Hymn 423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

- 1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,  
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary,  
Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended,  
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended,  
You have borne the pain of all.

2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,  
 Breathing no repentant vow,  
 Though we see You wounded, bleeding,  
 See Your thorn-encircled brow?  
 Yet Your sinless death has brought us  
 Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
 Only what Your grace has taught us  
 Calms the sinner's deep distress.

3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
 With more fervent love for You;  
 May our eyes be ever turning  
 To behold Your cross anew  
 Till in glory, parted never  
 From the blessed Savior's side,  
 Graven in our hearts forever,  
 Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Text: Public domain

(Stand)

**P** The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen  
 and preserve you in body and soul to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

## THANKSGIVING

LSB 200

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through  
 this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would  
 strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love  
 toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives  
 and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## SALUTATION

LSB 201

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## BENEDICAMUS

LSB 202

**P** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

LSB 202

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\text{†}$  give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Hymn 423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

- 1** Jesus, refuge of the weary,  
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary,  
Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended,  
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended,  
You have borne the pain of all.
- 2** Do we pass that cross unheeding,  
Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,  
See Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us  
Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us  
Calms the sinner's deep distress.
- 3** Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning  
To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never  
From the blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever,  
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Text: Public domain

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.