

# Welcome to Resurrection Lutheran

Feb 17, 2021

ASH WEDNESDAY

**In Christ the Cornerstone...Living His Word, Sharing His Love**



**Reverend Dr. Christopher Ascher – Pastor**

**Vicar Albert Bakat -- Evangelist**

**Jill Skots – Director, His Ark**

**5500 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57106**

**Phone: (605) 361-6631**

**[www.resurrectionsf.org](http://www.resurrectionsf.org)**

**[office@resurrectionsf.org](mailto:office@resurrectionsf.org)**

## **A CALL TO RETURN**

Through the words of the prophet Joel, God called to His people and commanded that they turn from their sinful ways and return to Him for His grace and blessings. The images the prophet uses are vivid and disturbing. The situation of God's people is desperate and needs immediate attention. This is a time for listening and responding to the call to return to faithfulness to the God who has ever been faithful to His people. "Return to the Lord, your God" is more than a verse sung as part of the liturgy. It is a heartfelt directive for our lives as together we follow the pathway of Lent.

## ~ Imposition Of Ashes ~

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

*After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence.*

### Ash Wednesday 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

- 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 teaching 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 prayer; 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.**

# ~ Confession and Absolution ~

## 616 Baptismal Waters Cover Me



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -  
 2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y  
 3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing  
 4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd  
 5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy  
 bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him  
 to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can  
 speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now  
 hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.  
 all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.  
 form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.  
 stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.  
 strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

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

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
  
- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. Holy and gracious God,
- C** **we confess our sin to You.**
  
- P** We cannot overcome our own sinful nature. Our desiring, our thinking, our acting, and our speaking—all goods gifts that You provide through Your good creation—we have warped and turned into instruments of sin.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
  
- P** We have not loved You with our whole heart, soul, body, mind, and strength. We have neglected the needs of our neighbors—both those closest to us and strangers alike.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
  
- P** For the times when our faith has wavered, for moments of arrogance, for petty jealousies, and for the small and big ways we have sought revenge.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
  
- P** For placing our own personal needs over the needs of our community and over the needs of other people in our lives.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
  
- P** For the times that our hearts have turned away from worshiping You.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
  
- P** For the times when we have not prayed as regularly and trustingly as we should.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**

- P** For the times when we have shrunk away from opportunities to give witness to Your grace to us in Christ Jesus.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For the times when we have displayed bad attitudes toward those who struggle in life, imagining that we deserve better than they do.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For seeking comfort for ourselves and not being as concerned about those who suffer injustice.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For explaining our neighbors' actions in unkind ways. For using our words as weapons against others. For standing in judgment over those who most need to hear a word of grace.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For the times when we have been careless toward this beautiful world that You created for us to live in.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** For all of the other sins, those of which we are aware and those to which we remain blind, we plead with You to forgive us and to fill us with the power of the Spirit to amend our lives.
- C** **Lord, have mercy on us.**
- P** Because of Jesus' paying the price for our sins on the cross, God readily forgives all who return to Him in repentance and faith. "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:11–14).
- C** **Amen.**

## ~ Service of the Word ~

### Kyrie

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Choir

"Manger, Cross and Tomb" by Victor C. Johnson

## Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12-19

**P** The Old Testament Reading for Ash Wednesday is from Joel, the second chapter.

### Return to the LORD

<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?'"

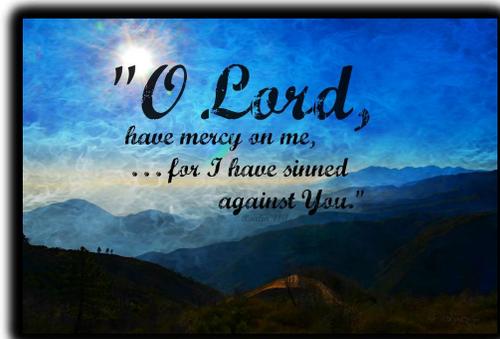
### The LORD Had Pity

<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."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.



**P** The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, the fifth and sixth chapters.

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.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse

Joel 2:13b

**C** Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

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

### Giving to the Needy

<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.

### The Lord’s Prayer

<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.

### Fasting

<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.

### Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

<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.”

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

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

## HYMN: 606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;  
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;  
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.  
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.  
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains  
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;  
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.  
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.  
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## SERMON

### 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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** With repentant hearts, let us turn to God in prayer for the Church, the world, and all who are in need, trusting that God is gracious and merciful to us in Jesus, abounding in steadfast love.

For the Church, that this Lenten season draws us closer to God and to one another as we focus on Jesus' redemptive acts for us and the life that He calls us to live—marked by repentance, fasting, prayer, and acts of love toward our neighbors. In prayer,

**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** For leaders throughout the world, that all leaders—national, regional, and local—serve with wisdom, uphold justice, and provide means of caring for those most vulnerable among us. In prayer,

**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** For those in our community who struggle with poverty, addiction, or unemployment, that during this Lenten time, You reenergize Your Church to serve them and love our neighbors in need as You loved and served the poor and outcast during Your earthly ministry. In prayer,

**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** For those who are sick, hospitalized, or dying, [*including . . .*], that they experience healing according to Your will, and that in the midst of their suffering they would experience the presence of Jesus in words of hope and acts of care. In prayer,

**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** For this congregation, that our intensified repentance, fasting, and prayer lead us to live in renewed ways, dying to sin with Christ in Holy Baptism each day, and being raised to new life as well every day and into eternity. In prayer,

**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** For our loved ones who faithfully followed Jesus in this life and are now with Him in heaven, we give thanks. Bring us to that day when all Your saints, past, present, and future, are returned to You for all eternity. In prayer,

**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** By the words of the prophets and by the living voice of Jesus in our ears, You call us to return to You, O Lord. According to Your gracious mercy and abounding love, hear these prayers that we this day have spoken, as well as the prayers we have that are too deep for words; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).*

## Offering / Hymn: Break Your Hearts with Mourning



1 Break your hearts with mourn - ing And your pride in two,  
2 See your Sav - ior dy - ing, Hung up - on the tree.  
3 Gath - er all in num - ber From both far and near;



Ash and grief a - dorn - ing Your re - pen - tance true.  
It is vain de - ny - ing What is plain to see:  
E - ven those in slum - ber Wait for trum - pets clear.



With your tears and fast - ing, From your God dis - cern  
While His heart is break - ing, Still your God will earn  
When the Lord grants bless - ing, Bro - ken hearts will learn



His ways ev - er - last - ing: To your Lord re - turn.  
Free - dom in the mak - ing. To your Lord re - turn.  
Joy be - yond ex - press - ing; To your Lord re - turn.

CHOIR SINGS: Verse 1 & 2

Congregation joins: Verse 3

*Text and text and text and text and tune and tune and tune and tune: © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CPH Lent License no. 110016479  
Tune and tune and tune and tune: © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CPH Lent License no. 110016479*

## ~ Service of the Sacrament ~

### Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

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

**C** **Amen.**

# Distribution Hymns

## 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of  
3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -  
4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -

dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress  
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode

Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -  
Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that  
Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to

pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O  
veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten  
heav'n re - stored, Might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing

from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text and tune: Public domain

## 570 Just as I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my  
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a  
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
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.

*Tune and text: Public domain*

## Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.  
Depart ✠ in peace.
- C** Amen.

## 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** Amen.

## Benediction

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## 610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;  
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.  
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.  
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!  
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.  
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## Acknowledgments

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 © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.

## ~ Return to the Lord ~

In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The imagery is bold and terrifying: hordes of locusts swarming over the land and decimating everything. Joel’s prophecy has teeth even today as wars rage, natural disasters threaten and destroy, and our culture seems to be unraveling. But right in the middle of this frightening portent, we find a tender invitation from the Lord:

“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” (Joel 2:13). God’s invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares.

During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme “Return to the Lord” and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God’s grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God’s wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to “turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him” (Joel 2:14).

	<b>WED FEB 17 7 pm</b>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY “A Call to Return”</b>	
	WED Feb 24 7 pm	LENT 1 “Return to <b>Prayer</b> ” Peter, James, & John/Gethsemane	
	WED MAR 3 7 pm	LENT 2 “Return from <b>Betrayal</b> ” Judas	
	WED MAR 10 7 pm	LENT 3 “Return from <b>False Witness</b> ” Caiaphas and the Council	
	WED MAR 17 7 pm	LENT 4 “Return from <b>Denial</b> ” Peter	
	WED MAR 24 7 pm	LENT 5 “Return to the <b>Kingdom of God</b> ” Pontius Pilate	
	THUR APR 1 7 pm	MAUNDY THUR “Return to the <b>Table</b> ” Jesus’ invitation (First Communion)	
	FRI APR 2 7 pm	GOOD FRIDAY “Return to the <b>Cross</b> ” 7 Last Words	
	SUN APR 4 7 am	EASTER SUNRISE “Return to the <b>Church</b> ” What was accomplished	
	SUN APR 4 930 am	EASTER FESTIVAL “ <b>Return and See</b> ” Christ is risen	