

SAVIOR
SERVANT
FRIEND



Ash Wednesday
FORGIVER

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Forgiver

March 5, 2025

*I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father
I have made known to you. John 15:15*

AS WE GATHER

In this service for Ash Wednesday, we being the season of Lent contemplating that Jesus is our Forgiver. We will remind ourselves that Jesus forgives us again and again by his cross, even though we do not deserve it.

I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

The Opening Hymn

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

LSB 609 vss 1, 3, 7



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
7 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Al - so I have



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
been for - giv - en; And when I this earth must leave,



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
I shall find an o - pen heav - en. Dy - ing, still to



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
Him I cleave: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Invocation and Call to Worship

P We gather together as friends in the presence of the Triune God who has called us friends. We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the (T) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P A friend loves at all times,

C **And a brother is born for adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)**

P The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,

C **And he makes known to them his covenant. (Psalm 25:14)**

P A man of many companions may come to ruin,

C **But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24)**

P What a friend we have in Jesus,

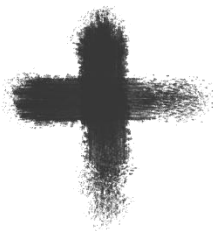
C **All our sins and griefs to bear!**

P Precious Savior, still our refuge—

C **Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

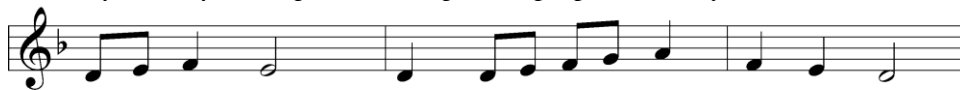
The Imposition of Ashes

The assembly may come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. Ashes are placed on the forehead in the shape of the cross as the following words are spoken: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”





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!

Confession and Forgiveness

P Jesus, friend of sinners, hear me as I confess my sins.

C My thoughts have befriended sin and shame, not truth and righteousness.

P O Lord, you have searched me and known me! (Psalm 139:1)

C My words have befriended lies and slander, not love and mercy.

P Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
(Psalm 139:4)

C My deeds have befriended hate and hurt, not peace and kindness.

P You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. (Psalm 139:3)

C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on the ways that you have befriended sin— and yet Jesus still calls you a friend.)

P Friends in Jesus: You have a Savior who has lived for you, died for you, and left the tomb empty for you. Your Servant Jesus has humbled himself to care for you. Your Friend, Christ Jesus, has cleansed you from all unrighteousness and washed away your sin. Jesus forgives you and loves you. Jesus is your friend now and for all eternity.

C What a friend we have in Jesus.

The Prayer of the Day

P Lord Jesus, you have invited us to take everything to you in prayer. You know our weaknesses and how we are heavy-laden. You know the burdens that we carry in our hearts and minds. Precious Savior, be our refuge. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us this Lent that we may know your friendship and love. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12-17

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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. 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?’”

Epistle Reading

Colossians 1:9-14

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.



One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

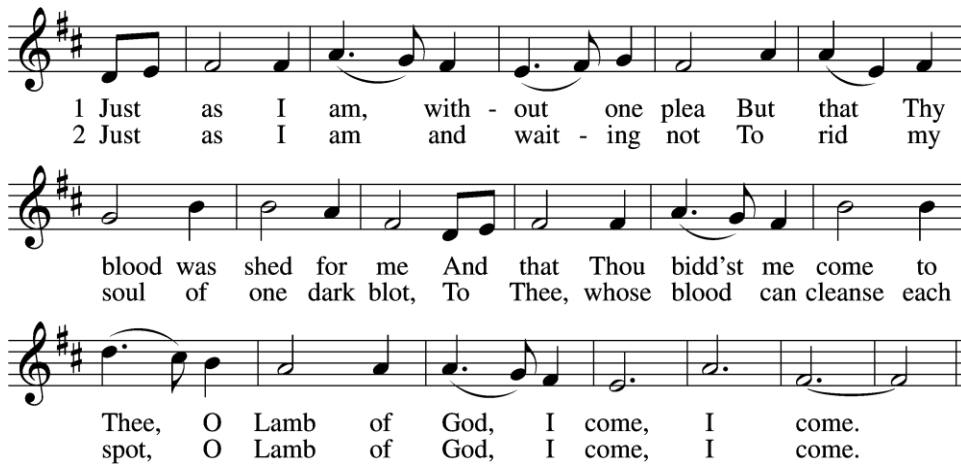
"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"



Sermon Hymn

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

LSB 570 VSs 1-2



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
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
Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Sermon

“Forgiver”

Pastor Scott Henze

Prayers

Each petition ends with “Lord, hear our prayer.”

- P Amid our trials, temptations and troubles, we have a friend who sticks with us. Where else can we find a friend so faithful? And, so, we take it to the Lord in prayer. Jesus, you know our every weakness and have promised to be our friend, so we lift our prayers and raise our petitions.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Deliver us from the mess of our sin, and let us never be defined by the messes that we make.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Deliver this world from the mess of evil and injustice, and befriend the vulnerable, the sojourner, the unborn and all who need a friend.
- C Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Deliver the self-righteous from their delusions and teach us to never underestimate the debts that you have forgiven on our behalf.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Deliver us from death, and remind us that friendship with you means that we are more than mere dust.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Deliver us from sorrow, discouragement and pain by the power of your abiding friendship.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Deliver us from apathy and malaise so that we can befriend our neighbors with your love.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Jesus, deliver us from isolation, and give us a seat at your table where we receive your body and blood.

C Jesus, what a privilege it is to be your friend. Amen.

Offering

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.

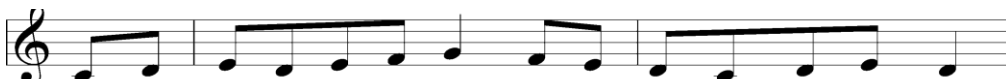
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks and praise through Jesus Christ whom You sent to be our Savior and Redeemer. By His death upon the cross He has paid the cost of our redemption, and through His wounds we are healed. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

LSB 208



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



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

Words of Institution

The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord)

Agnus Dei

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
 2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
 3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
 4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,
 5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of
 sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new
 eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me
 is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing
 death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
 cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
 weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.
 new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet
 crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from
 Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was
 Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -
 Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing
 Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
 wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
 ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
 pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
 tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

“Not All the Blood of Beasts”

LSB 431



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear;
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Closing of the Table

The Benediction

P Jesus has called you friends and made known to you all that he has heard from the Father. Go now as friends of Jesus befriending others in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

C **What a friend we have in Jesus!**





1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Dismissal

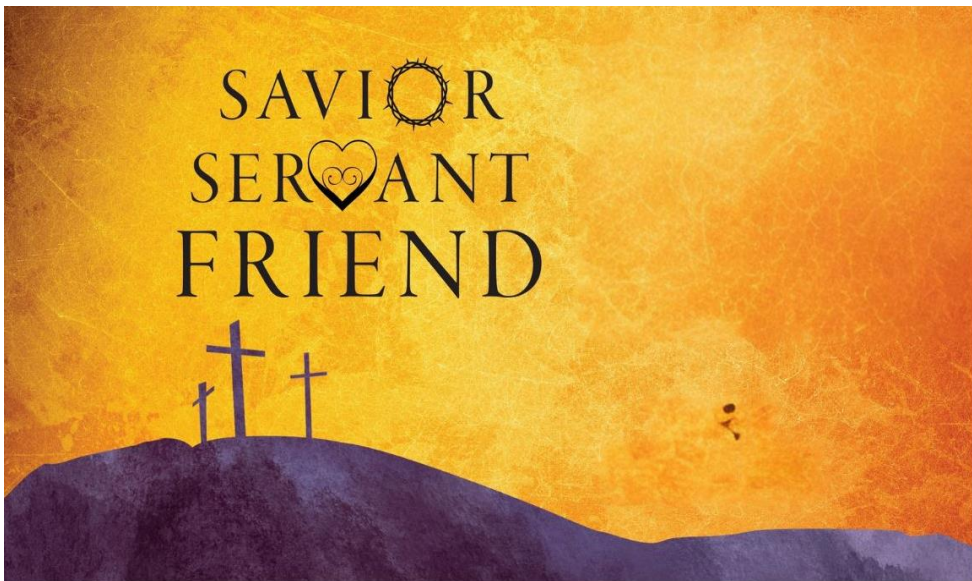
P Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

C **Disciples making disciples.**

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Midweek Lent Worship Schedule



Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 PM

Midweek Lent 1	March 12	Healer
Midweek Lent 2	March 19	Listener
Midweek Lent 3	March 26	Encourager
Midweek Lent 4	April 2	Protector
Midweek Lent 5	April 9	Comforter



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Call the church office at 954-384-9096 if you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director

580 Indian Trace, Weston, Florida 33326

Church Office (954) 384-9096 † office@stpaulweston.org

www.stpaulweston.org

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM



Website and online
giving

**St. Paul**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& PRE-SCHOOL