



**By Arden W. Mead**

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**Order of Service for Ash Wednesday**

**February 17, 2021**

**Forgive!**

**Call to Worship: "I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"**

**Opening Hymn: "Words that Last Forever" *sung to #606 ELW***

**With words that last forever you speak in richest grace,  
Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior, upon your cross disgraced.**

**With open ears I listen, with open mind believe,  
With heart embrace you: I, Lord, your words receive.**

**"Forgiveness" granted sinners, and "Paradise, today!"**

**"Behold your son, your mother!" to family you say.**

**The air is split with anguish in your "Forsaken" cry.**

**As "Thirsty," work "Accomplished," in "Father's hands" you die.**

**Pray, sanctify the silence with which I contemplate  
Your boundless love for sinners, your sacrifices so great,  
Till at the tomb I waken to your new word for me:  
These words, not last, but lasting, shall ring eternally!**

### **Approaching the Word**

**P:** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

**C: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."**

**P:** The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.

**C: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."**

**P:** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

**C: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."**

**P:** "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

**C: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."**

**P:** "The word that goes forth from my mouth shall not return to me empty," says the Lord. "It shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

**C: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*Honk your horns to greet one another.*

**P:** Let us pray.

**All: O God of forgiveness, you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You did not send your Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Create clean hearts in us, we pray. Cleanse us from your sin, that our joy may be complete. Then we will live in your light. Then these ashen souls will be ignited with your forgiving grace. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Anthem: “Create in Me” by Scott Hyslop**

### **First Lesson: Joel 2: 12-19**

<sup>12</sup> But there’s also this, it’s not too late— God’s personal Message!—“Come back to me and really mean it! Come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins!” <sup>13-</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Change your life, not just your clothes. Come back to God, *your* God. And here’s why: God is kind and merciful. He takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot. This most patient God, extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe. Who knows? Maybe he’ll do it now, maybe he’ll turn around and show pity. Maybe, when all’s said and done, there’ll be blessings full and robust for your God!<sup>15-17</sup> Blow the ram’s horn trumpet in Zion! Declare a day of repentance, a holy fast day. Call a public meeting. Get everyone there. Consecrate the congregation. Make sure the elders come, but bring in the children, too, even the nursing babies, even men and women on their honeymoon—interrupt them and get them there. Between Sanctuary entrance and altar, let the priests, God’s servants, weep tears of repentance. Let them intercede: “Have mercy, God, on your people! Don’t abandon your heritage to contempt. Don’t let the pagans take over and rule them and sneer, ‘And so where is this God of theirs?’” <sup>18-19</sup> At that, God went into action to get his land back. He took pity on his people. God answered and spoke to his people, “Look, listen—I’m sending a gift: Grain and wine and olive oil. The fast is over—eat your fill! I won’t expose you any longer to contempt among the pagans.

### **Responsive Psalmody: Psalm 51**

**P:** Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love. Because of your great mercy wipe away my sins!

**C: Wash away all my evil and make me clean from my sin!**

**P:** I have sinned against you—only you—and done what you consider evil.

**C: So you are right in judging me; you are justified in condemning me.**

**P:** I have been evil from the day I was born; from the time I was conceived, I have been sinful.

**P:** Sincerity and truth are what you require; fill my mind with your wisdom.

**C: Remove my sin, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

**P:** Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness; and though you have crushed me and broken me, I will be happy once again.

**C: Close your eyes to my sins and wipe out all my evil.**

**P:** Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me.

**C: Do not banish me from your presence; do not take your holy spirit away from me.**

**P: Give me again the joy that comes from your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.**

**Theme Hymn, vs. 1: “Our Savior Speaks in Love” sung to Southwell SM**

**Our Savior speaks in love,  
From deepest agony.  
Oh, hear the message from above;  
His great compassion see.**

**P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 3:14-21**

Jesus continued, “In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.<sup>16-18</sup> “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person’s failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.<sup>19-21</sup> “This is the crisis we’re in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won’t come near it, fearing a painful exposure. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is.”

**Children’s Word**

**Theme Hymn, vs. 2: “Our Savior Speaks in Love” sung to Southwell SM**

**Our Savior speaks in grace  
With words of mercy true:**

**“Forgive them, Father,” thus he prays;  
“They know not what they do.”**

**Homily: “Forgive!”**

**Hymn: “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”** *sung to “Ack, Vad Ar Dock Livet Har” 777 6*  
*As the hymn is sung you are invited to take the ashes from your communion bag and mark the sign of the cross on your forehead.*

**Jesus, in your dying woes,  
Even as your life-blood flows,  
Craving pardon for our foes:  
Hear us, holy Jesus**

**Savior, for our pardon sue  
When our sins your pangs renew,  
For we know not what we do:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Oh, may we, who mercy need,  
Be like you in heart and deed,  
When with wrongs our spirits bleed:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

### **Prayers of the Church**

*Honk your horn three times as part of the response.*

**P:** Since we have a High Priest who has gone before us, by whom we have access to the throne of grace, drawing near with full confidence let us join in fervent prayer:

**C: Forgive us, Lord, and show us what to do.**

**P:** That the church of Jesus Christ may be a place where the Gospel is both spoken and enacted, proclaimed in word and deed, let us join in fervent prayer:

**C: Forgive us, Lord, and show us what to do.**

**P:** That the citizens of our nations, and our leaders, may acknowledge wrong where it exists and may work diligently to remove causes and correct the problems it has wrought, let us join in fervent prayer:

**C: Forgive us, Lord, and show us what to do.**

**P:** That God's redeeming health may be made manifest especially among those who have been abused or neglected, harmed or hindered, stricken or saddened, forbidden or forsaken, let us join in fervent prayer:

**C: Forgive us, Lord, and show us what to do.**

**P:** And that we who must return to dust may not despair in our mortality, but may be given grace in Jesus Christ to rise again to everlasting life, let us join in fervent prayer:

**C: Forgive us, Lord, and show us what to do. Amen!**

## **Words of Institution**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **Communion Distribution:**

**P:** The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

**Song during Communion: "Around You, O Lord Jesus"**

**Communion Blessing**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace till life everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

**Benediction**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Your Loving God has indeed forgiven you.

**C: Amen.**

**Theme Hymn, vs. 3: “Our Savior Speaks in Love” sung to Southwell SM**

**Our Savior speaks; may we  
Give heed to ev’ry word,  
And grace be given faithfully  
To trust what we have heard.**

**Postlude: “Just As I Am” Bradbury/Trelstad**