

God's Gift *of* Forgiveness

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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PHONE: 234-6646

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February 18, 2026

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Rev. Jonathan F. Meyer

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Follow us on Facebook at: **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** & **St. Paul's Lutheran School**



6:30 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY

We welcome you to our worship service this evening.
St. Paul's has a service every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM.
Sunday School meets at 10:15 AM.
We request that members and visitors fill out an attendance card.
Please pass the card down to the center aisle after the offering.
You are welcome in this house.

**The Mission at *St. Paul's Lutheran Church* is:
Preach and Teach to ALL, Comfort and Support those in need!**

ACOLYTE: Gene Hollrah

LIVESTREAM: Paul Fisher

SOUND: Gerald Nolte

SCRIPTURE READER: Paul Dunbar

ELDER OF THE DAY: Paul Dunbar & Ron Young

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Paul Dunbar & Ron Young

USHERS: Gene Breitenkamp, Bill White, James Wuerflein & Richard Burdick

Service Notes:

Lent – Ash Wednesday begins the penitential season of Lent. Lent is a time to reflect upon one's sinful life and to repent of sin. In biblical times, some people would demonstrate their repentance by donning ashes as a symbol of their guilt and mortality. But Lent is not only a time to see our sin; it is also a season for beholding our Savior. It is a time to hear His Word. During this Lenten season, we will hear Him speak words of forgiveness for sinners like us.

Ashes - This evening you will have the opportunity to receive ashes, a traditional mark of repentance, upon your forehead. If you prefer not to have them on your forehead, extend your hand and they will be placed there, instead. If you wish to receive ashes, please come forward when instructed.

Absolution – Our theme this year is "God's Gift of Forgiveness." Christ has given to His Church the commandment to forgive the sins of the penitent sinner. Martin Luther writes in his Small Catechism concerning absolution, "When the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular...when they absolve [forgive] those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ, our dear Lord, dealt with us Himself," (5th Chief Part).

The Lord's Supper – Finally, this evening we will also receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We believe and teach the Real Presence of Christ – His body and blood sacramentally present for our forgiveness and nurture. In the Sacrament, Baptized Christians are joined in a very close, personal and intimate way with Christ and with one another as we receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ present in the bread and wine. (See 1 Cor. 10:16-17)

We believe that when a person partakes of the Sacrament, that person is also confessing unreserved agreement with the doctrine and practice that is proclaimed from the altar and pulpit of which the Sacrament is administered. (See 1 Cor. 11:17-34)

We therefore ask that all visitors and guests who have not communed here before or who are members of a congregation not in fellowship with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and wish to receive the Sacrament, or who might like to discuss this Communion practice, speak to an Elder or the Pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Christians who do not share this confession of faith, or who have not been instructed in the Christian faith, are welcome to receive a blessing by kneeling at the railing and crossing your arms across your chest.

Private Confession and Absolution: Pastor is available for private confession and absolution following the service. He will be in the sacristy. If the door is open, please enter. If the door is closed, please step away from the door and wait your turn. A rite of confession is on the back page of this service folder. He will be available every Wednesday evening after the service. He is available during the week, as well.

The Service of the Word

Hymn – “Jesus in Your Dying Woes” – LSB #447 – v. 1-3



1 Je - sus, in Your dy - ing woes, E - ven while Your life-blood flows,
2 Sav - ior, for our par - don sue When our sins Your pangs re - new,
3 Oh, may we, who mer - cy need, Be like You in heart and deed,



Crav - ing par - don for Your foes: Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
For we know not what we do: Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.
When with wrong our spir - its bleed: Hear us, ho - ly Je - sus.

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Stand

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, the imprisoned and all who stand in our need of 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 to graciously 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.**

Sit

The Imposition of Ashes

If you wish to receive ashes, please come forward when instructed. Then, return to your seat.

Old Testament Reading: Joel 2:12–19

L The Old Testament Reading is from Joel, the second chapter.

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and 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. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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. ¹⁷Between 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?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 6 (prayed by whole verse)

L O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath.

C **Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am anguishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.**

P My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O Lord— how long?

C **Turn, O Lord, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.**

P For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?

C **I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.**

P My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.

C **Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.**

P The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer.

C **All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled; they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.**

All **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.**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

L The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, the fifth chapter.

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

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

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

¹[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.

²“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. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶[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.

¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that 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.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed

C 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 T of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn – “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” – LSB #611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.

5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Sermon: Save Me Because of Your Unfailing Love - Psalm 6

Offering

Corporate Confession and Absolution

Stand

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 + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P I will go to the altar of God,

C **to God my exceeding joy.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which he strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you." It is as if He said, "I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat."

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with the wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C **Amen.**

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, merciful Father, 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.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C **Yes.**

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

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.**

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be + at peace.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (spoken)

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.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. 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

- 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 In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:
- 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 + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P 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 + 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.**

Agnus Dei (spoken)

- P O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
- C **Have mercy upon us.**
- P O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
- C **Have mercy upon us.**
- P O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
- C **Grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Sit

Hymns During Distribution

Hymn – “The Lamb” – LSB #547



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

Hymn – “Lamb of God” – LSB #550



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod, And to be called a lamb of God.



Refrain
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Hymn – “Today Your Mercy Calls Us” – LSB #915



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

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Stand

Dismissal

P Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you, body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart + in peace.

C **Amen.**

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

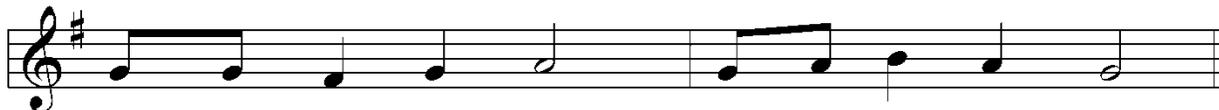
Hymn – “Jesus, Lead Thou On “ – LSB #718



1 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And al-though the
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faith-less
3 When we seek re - lief From a long-felt grief, When temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, We will fol - low calm and fear - less.
fears o'er - take us; Let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing, Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing.
still di - rect us, Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



Guide us by Thy hand To our fa - ther - land.
For through man - y a woe To our home we go.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

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Individual Confession and Absolution

When you are ready, say:

Individual: Pastor, please hear my confession and pronounce forgiveness in order to fulfill God's will.

Pastor: Proceed.

Continue by using either the general confession (left) or if there are specific sins, use the right column.

A General form of confession:

I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of
all of
my sins.

I have lived as if God did not matter and as
if I
mattered most.

My Lord's name I have not honored as I
should;

my worship and prayers have faltered.

I have not let His love have its way with me,
and so my love for others has failed.

There are those whom I have hurt, and
those

whom I have failed to help.

**My thoughts and desires have been soiled
with**

sin.

If you wish to confess specific sins that trouble
YOU:

What troubles me particularly is . . .

*Confess whatever you have done against the
commandments of God, according to your
own place in life.*

Then conclude by saying:

Individual: I am sorry for all of this and ask for grace. I want to do better.

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

Individual: Amen.

Pastor: Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

Individual: Yes.

Pastor: Let it be done for you as you believe.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the penitent and says:

Pastor: 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.

Individual: Amen.

Pastor: Go in peace. Your sins are forgiven.

Individual: Amen.

Psalms 30, 31, 32, 34, 103, or 118 are appropriate to pray in thanksgiving.