

## MARCH 8, 2023 - LENT 2 MIDWEEK SERVICE

**Prelude** - “*Lamb of God, Our Savior*” by Roger Wilson.

*Stand*

### 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

*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.

### Opening Versicles

**P** O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger,

**C** nor discipline me in your wrath.

**P** Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;

**C** heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.

**P** My soul also is greatly troubled.

**C** But you, O Lord—how long?

**P** Turn, O Lord, deliver my life;

**C** save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

**P** For in death there is no remembrance of you;

**C** in Sheol who will give you praise?

**P** Depart from me, all you workers of evil,

**C** for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.

**P** The Lord has heard my plea;

**C** the Lord accepts my prayer.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

- C** Heavenly Father, as the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son shows grace by welcoming his lost son home, even though he does not deserve it, so You showed your grace to us when we were lost and dead in sin. You sent your only Son to seek and to save us, welcoming us back to yourself and forgiving our sins for Jesus' sake. Empower us with your Spirit to share the good news that Jesus died to save all those still lost in the darkness of sin and that you are eagerly waiting to welcome them home. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Joel 2:1–2, 11–16*

<sup>1</sup>Blow a trumpet in Zion;  
    sound an alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
    for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,  
<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom,  
    a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains  
    a great and powerful people;  
their like has never been before,  
    nor will be again after them  
    through the years of all generations.  
  
<sup>11</sup>The LORD utters his voice  
    before his army,  
for his camp is exceedingly great;  
    he who executes his word is powerful.  
For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome;  
    who can endure it?  
  
<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?

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Ephesians 2:1–10*

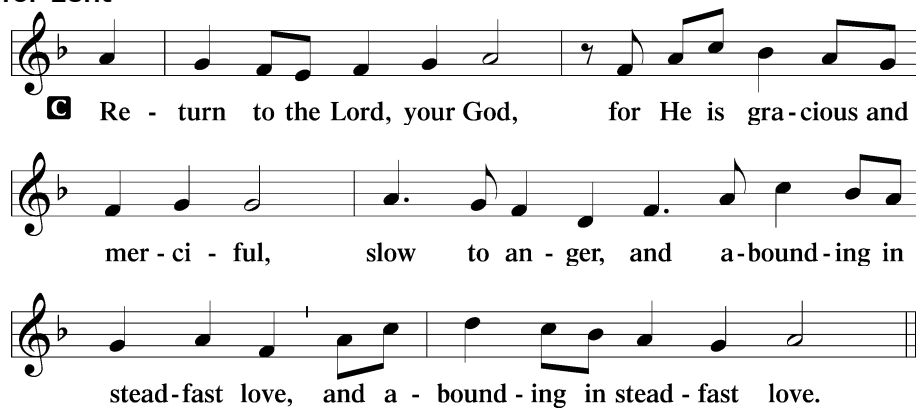
<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse for Lent

LSB 157



**C** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in  
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 15:11–32

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>11</sup>[Jesus said:] “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

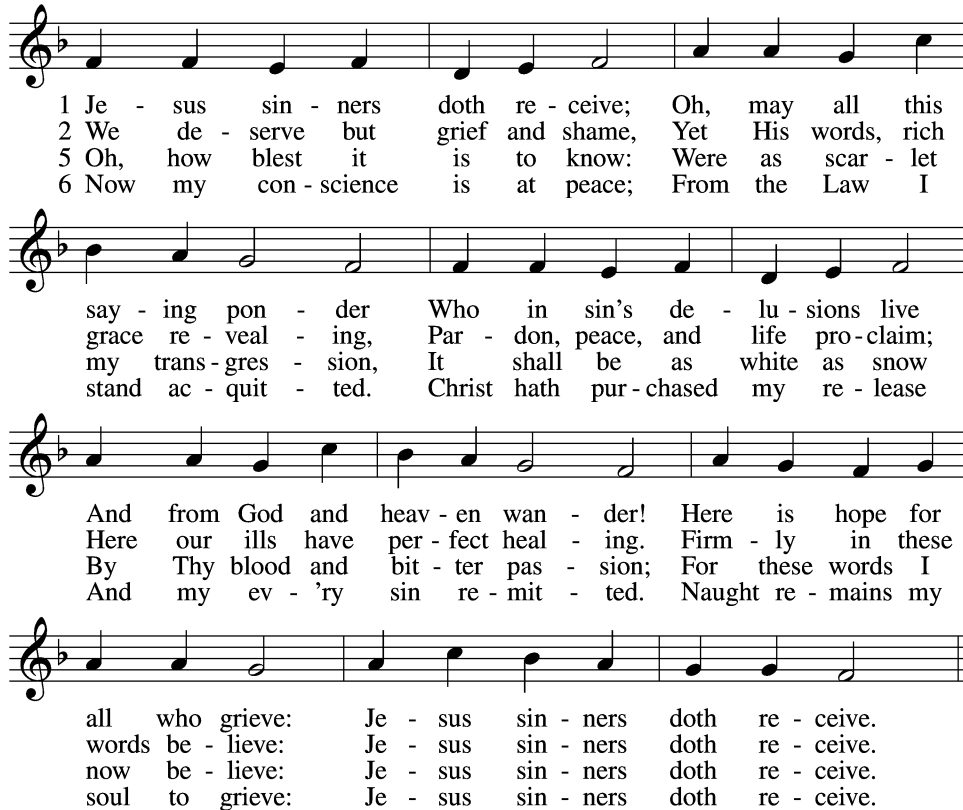
<sup>17</sup>“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” <sup>20</sup>And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup>but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## 609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

sts. 1-2, 5-6



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich  
 5 Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scar - let  
 6 Now my con - science is at peace; From the Law I

say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 my trans - gres - sion, It shall be as white as snow  
 stand ac - quit - ted. Christ hath pur - chased my re - lease

And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
 By Thy blood and bit - ter pas - sion; For these words I  
 And my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re - mains my

all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 now be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

**Anthem** - "Where You There?" arranged by Rich Heffler; Althea Madigan, English Horn soloist.

*Kneel*

## Prayers

- P** Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for your amazing grace in our lives. We were lost in sin and now have been found. We were dead in sin and now we are alive in Christ! Heavenly Father, through Christ you have welcomed us home and will one day welcome us into your eternal presence. Gracious Lord,
- C** **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**
  
- P** Almighty God, you have redeemed us in Christ. We pray that you would lead us by your Spirit to be faithful in the study of your holy Word. Keep us on the path of righteousness so that we carry out the good works that you have prepared for us. Gracious Lord,
- C** **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**
  
- P** Almighty God, we pray for those who are suffering with illness and loss and for those who are struggling in matters of faith because they feel lost and alone. Help us to serve them in love and bring them the comfort of the promises of your Word. Gracious Lord,
- C** **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**
  
- P** Almighty God, so many people are lost and suffering in poverty, hunger and need. Lead us to opportunities to help them with their earthly needs and bring to them the eternal hope that is found only in Jesus. Gracious Lord,
- C** **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**
  
- P** Almighty God, empower us with your Spirit to be bold witnesses to those who are still lost in the darkness of sin. Help us to share with them the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. We pray, too, that our words of witness will be supported with our acts of love and service. We want others to know that you are the heavenly Father who waits to welcome them home. Gracious Lord,
- C** **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

**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.

## Benediction

LSB 183

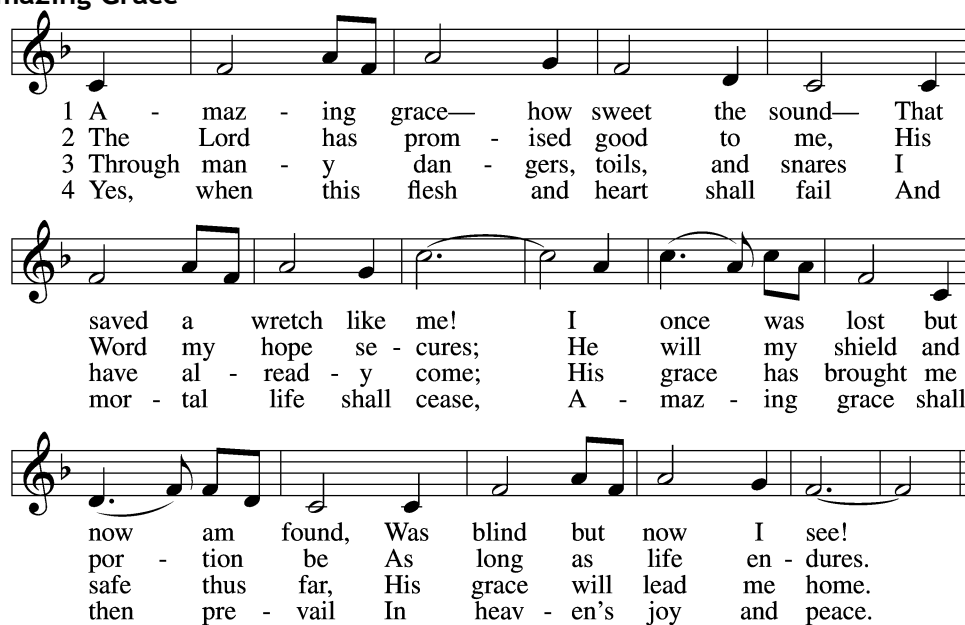
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## 744 Amazing Grace

sts. 1–4



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That  
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And  
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me  
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall  
now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.  
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.

Text and tune: Public domain

**Postlude** - “*Andante Tranquillo*” by Mendelssohn.

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One 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 © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.