



Ash Wednesday
March 5, 2025
Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Maineville, Ohio

51D God, Be Merciful to Me

Psalm 51D sts. 1-4



1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on your grace I
2 My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my
3 I am e - vil, born in sin; you de - sire all
4 Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust by your wrath and



rest my plea; your com - pas - sions o - ver - flow,
soul op - press; I have sinned a - gainst your grace
truth with - in. You a - lone my Sav - ior are,
judg - ment just, let my con - trite heart re - joice



blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me
and pro - voked you to your face; I con - fess your
teach your wis - dom to my heart; make me pure, your
and in glad - ness hear your voice; from my sins, O



pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
judg - ment just, speech - less, in your mer - cy trust.
grace be - stow, wash me whit - er than the snow.
hide your face, blot them out in bound - less grace.

Text: Psalter, 1910, alt.
Tune: Richard Freshfield
Text and tune: Public domain

Silence for meditation

51D God, Be Merciful to Me

Psalm 51D sts. 5-8



5 Gra - cious God, my heart re - new, make my spir - it
6 Sin - ners then shall learn from me and to God re -
7 No at - tempt - ed sac - ri - fice has ac - cept - ance
8 Pros - per Zi - on in your grace and her bro - ken



right and true; let me not a - ban - doned be,
stored shall be; Sav - ior, all my guilt re - move,
in your eyes; bro - ken hearts are in your sight
walls re - place; then our right - eous sac - ri - fice



let your Spir - it dwell in me; your sal - va - tion's
and my tongue shall sing your love; touch my si - lent
more than sac - ri - fi - cial rite; con - trite spir - it,
shall de - light your ho - ly eyes; free - will of - f'rings,



joy im - part, stead - fast make my will - ing heart.
lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise ac - cord.
plead - ing cries, you, O God, will not de - spise.
glad - ly made, on your al - tar shall be laid.

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Silence for meditation

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

C: **We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward. Baptized children may come forward at their parents' discretion.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

M: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After all who desire have received ashes, the minister says:

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

C: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

C: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

ABSOLUTION

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

<i>HYMN: ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE</i>

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2 Samuel 12:1–13

¹The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

⁵David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

⁷Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

¹¹“This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹²You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’ ”

¹³Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.

2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2

²⁰We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹As God’s co-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. ²For he says,

“In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Seasonal Response

C: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.

Sermon Hymn: The Son of God Goes Forth to War

(Sung to the tune of *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*)

1. **The Son of God goes forth to war
A kingly crown to gain.
His blood-red flag streams wide and far;
Who follows in his train?
All those who drink Christ's cup of woe,
Triumphant over pain,
And patient bear their cross below –
They follow in his train.**

2. **Saint Stephen, looking to the sky,
Saw heav'n beyond the grave –
The Son of Man by God on high,
And called on him to save.
Like Christ, who pardon rare displayed,
While on the cross in pain,
This saint for his assailants prayed –
Who follows in his train?**

3. **A glorious band – the chosen few,
On whom the Spirit came –
Because sure hope in Christ they knew
At peace met cross and flame.
They suffered ridicule and scorn,
With hatred they were slain.
Now crowns their faithful heads adorn –
Who follows in their train.**

4. **A noble army, robed in white,
From ev'ry tribe and race,
Around the Savior's throne delight
To see his glor'rious face.
They held the narrow path to heav'n
Through peril, toil, and pain.
O God, to us may grace be giv'n
To follow in their train!**

Sermon on John 11:33-37

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.**

THE OFFERTORY

Sung to the tune of *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

**C: What language shall I borrow
To thank you, dearest Friend,
For all Your dying sorrow,
Your pity without end?
Oh, make me Yours forever;
And should I fainting prove,
Lord, let me never, never
Forsake your dying love!**

THE PREFACE

M: The Lord is with His people; The Lord God be with you.

C: **The Lord is with His servants;
The Lord be with you, too.**

M: Your grateful hearts now raise Him

C: **To God we lift them high.
'Tis right to thank and praise Him
Who to his world draws nigh**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

M: Always and everywhere it is right to give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who gave His life on the cross for us that, freed from the power of sin and death, we might have eternal joy in Your presence, renewed in faith and life. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

Sung to the tune of *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word*

C: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Heav'n and earth proclaim the story
Of Your majesty adored,
Of your kingdom, pow'r, and glory.
With hosannas now we meet You;
With our palms and praises greet You:**

**Hail! Hosanna! Blest is He
Who in God's own name draws near us!
Hail! Hosanna! Blest are we
Since we have God's love to cheer us:
Blood outpoured and body broken
Of eternal love the token.**

THE CONSECRATION

THE AGNUS DEI (Sung to the tune of *O Dearest Jesus*)

**C: Jesus, the Lamb of God, Have mercy on us!
Jesus, who bore our sins, Have mercy on us!
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy!
Give us Your peace, Lord!**

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE NUNC DIMMITIS (To the tune of *Our Father, by Whose Name*)

**C: In peace, Lord, at Your Word,
Now let Your servant go;
For I have seen and heard
What all the earth must know:
Salvation for the world is here!
And Israel's Light shines bright and clear
Upon the nations far and near.**

**Eternal praise and fame
Be to our God alone!
We proudly bear His name,
Proclaim what he has done.
For our redemption, full and free,
To Father, Son, and Spirit be
All praise and thanks eternally!**

THE BENEDICTION (To the tune of *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*)

**M: The good Lord bless and keep you,
Lift up His shining face,
With favor look upon you
And grant eternal peace.**

**C: To Father, Son, and Spirit,
Most gracious One-in-Three,
Be glory, praise, and blessing
Now and eternally!**