

BY MY HAND – FOR MY SAKE

**A SERIES OF SPECIAL SERVICES FOR LENT
Ash Wednesday • Eve**

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LITANY Responses from Lamentations 1 and 3, and Psalm 51

P: Our opening Litany is a responsive reading from Lamentations 1 and 3, and Psalm 51, interspersed with verses from the hymn “Alas! And did my Savior Bleed” We begin with that first verse.

HYMN No. 437 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (vs. 1)

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?**

LITANY

L: Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

C: My transgressions are like a yoke about my neck, fastened by the hand of the Lord. They weigh so heavily upon me that my strength is gone.

P: When we lift our hands in prayer to God in heaven, we should offer him our hearts and say, “We have sinned! We have rebelled against you!”

HYMN No. 437 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (vs. 2)

**Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!**

LITANY

P: You are kind, God! Please have pity on me.

C: You are always merciful! Please wipe away my sins. Wash me clean from all of my sin and guilt.

P: I know about my sins, and I cannot forget my terrible guilt.
C: You are really the one I have sinned against. I have disobeyed you and have done great wrong. So it is right and fair for you to correct and punish me. I have sinned and done wrong since the day I was born.

P: But you want complete honesty, so teach me true wisdom.
C: Wash me with hyssop until I am clean and whiter than snow. Let me be happy and joyful!

P: You crushed my bones,
C: now let them celebrate. Turn your eyes from my sin and cover my guilt.

P: Create pure thoughts in me and make me faithful again. Don't chase me away from you or take your Holy Spirit from me.

HYMN No. 437 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" (new verse)

**O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,
O Joy of all the meek,
How kind you are to those who fall,
How good to those who seek!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Heavenly Father, Blessed One, have mercy on us. Lord, as we repent our sins to You. We have been deficient in Your glory and without your mercy and grace, we would be cast into outer darkness. Lord, as we embark onto this Lenten season, be close to us. Help us Lord, through Your Holy Spirit, to believe in what is right and in repentance for our sin. Help us, by your Spirit, to have the strength to defeat the enemy. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

HYMN No. 437 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" (New verse)

**To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.**

HOMILY Pastor Vern

HYMN "Yet Even Now" (Sung to the tune: Mendon LM - LSB 664)

**"Yet even now," thus says the Lord,
"Return to me with all your heart,
With fasting and with tears of grief;
Your hearts, and not your garments, part."**

Unto the Lord, your God, return,
Who sends his mercy from above;
For he is gracious, slow to wrath,
And he abounds in steadfast love.

The sinless Son of God was made,
For us, the One by sin defiled,
That we in him might righteous be
And with our Father reconciled.

Even as we return, O God,
Claiming your grace for Jesus' sake,
Turn now to us with heartfelt love
And leave a blessing in your wake.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Joel 2:12-19

L: "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?'" Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. The 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY Hebrews 12:2

L: Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete.

C: He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross, because he knew that later on he would be glad he did.

L: Now he is seated at the right side of God's throne.

C: Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete.

P: We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN No. **The Old Rugged Cross (vs. 1)**

MONOLOG **“Eve”**

HYMN **(Sung to the Tune: LSB 449 - Herzlich Tut Mich Verlangen)**

Remember, earth-born mortal,
The dust from which you came,
And know that life’s last portal
Returns you to the same!
Let ashes tell the story,
From dust its lesson learn:
Beyond life’s fleeting glory
To dust you shall return!

O God, you once did fashion
Our lives from earth’s frail dust.
Through Jesus’ Cross and Passion
Help us your grace to trust.
For Christ was born of Mary
Our mortal dust to share,
Our sin and guilt to carry,
Our ransom to prepare.

Let ashes be the token
Of heartfelt penitence
And of your promise spoken
To raise our bodies hence.
Have mercy on us mortals!
Let faith within us burn,
That even from death’s portals
We may to life return!

PRAYERS

P For our sakes, O loving God, your Son shared our humanity, flesh of our flesh, dust of our dust.

For our sakes, O loving God, our sinless Savior took our sin upon himself, its guilt and punishment.

For our sakes, he resisted all that might have tempted him to turn aside from your holy will, to violate your Word.

For our sakes, he took up the cross, and gave his life upon it.

For his sake, O God, stretch out your loving hand to fill our hands with his fullness. Loosen our grasp on the things of this world and free our wills from covetousness. Give us the strength and determination to resist temptation, to turn anew to you and the mercy you offer, to take up the cross and follow faithfully, relying on your firmly guiding hand.

For we are dust, and unto dust we shall return. And yet we do so with firm confidence in your creating, saving power. For in your hands, dust lives!

Breathe into us the breath of life, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF PRAISE No. 611 (vs. 1)

**Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his, and he is mine.**

LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

P: Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

BLESSING OF THE LORD Numbers 6:22

**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 (Sung to the Tune: Gethsemane; LSB 664)

**Peace, to soothe our bitter woes,
God in Christ on us bestows;
Jesus bought our peace with God
With his holy, precious blood;
Peace in him for sinners found
Is the Gospel's joyful sound.**