



The Holy Week Prophecies of Zechariah

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026
Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Maineville, Ohio

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.**

652 Lord, Have Mercy



1 For what we have done and left un - done we fall on your
(2 For) what you have done, your life of love you per - fect - ly



count - less mer - cies. For sins that are known and
lived, we praise you. Though tempt - ed and tried, you



those un - known we call on your name so ho - ly.
fixed your eyes; you fin - ished the work God gave you.



For en - vy and pride, for clos - ing our eyes; for
And there on the tree, a King a - mong thieves, you
(3 For) hearts that are cold, for seiz - ing con - trol; for



scorn - ing our ver - y neigh - bor. In
bled for a world's be - tray - al. You
scorn - ing our ver - y mak - er. In



thought, word, and deed we've failed you, our King; how
loved to the end, our mer - ci - ful friend; how
thought, word, and deed we've failed you, our King; how

deep - ly we need a Sav - ior. *Refrain I*
 pure and for - ev - er faith - ful. *Refrain II*
 deep - ly we need a Sav - ior. *Refrain II*

Refrain I

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy

on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,

Lord, have mer - cy on us. 2 For

Refrain II

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy

on us. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,

Lord, have mer - cy on us. 1 on us. 2 *Fine (last time)* 7 3 For

Text: Matt Papa, b. 1983; Aaron Keyes, b. 1978; James Tealy, b. 1971; Matt Boswell, b. 1979

Tune: Matt Papa, b. 1983; Aaron Keyes, b. 1978; James Tealy, b. 1971; Matt Boswell, b. 1979

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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.**

Isaiah 59:12–20

¹²For our offenses are many in your sight,
and our sins testify against us.
Our offenses are ever with us,
and we acknowledge our iniquities:
¹³rebellion and treachery against the Lord,
turning our backs on our God,
inciting revolt and oppression,
uttering lies our hearts have conceived.
¹⁴So justice is driven back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets,
honesty cannot enter.
¹⁵Truth is nowhere to be found,
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.
The Lord looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.
¹⁶He saw that there was no one,
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm achieved salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.
¹⁷He put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.
¹⁸According to what they have done,
so will he repay
wrath to his enemies
and retribution to his foes;
he will repay the islands their due.
¹⁹From the west, people will fear the name of the Lord,
and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory.
For he will come like a pent-up flood
that the breath of the Lord drives along.
²⁰“The Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,”
declares the Lord.

Psalm 51A Be Merciful, O Lord

Refrain



Tone

Have mercy on / me, O God,
according to your un- / failing love;
according to your great com- / passion
blot out my trans- / gressions.

Wash away all my in- / iquity
and cleanse me / from my sin.
For I know my trans- / gressions,
and my sin is always be- / fore me. *Refrain*

Against you, you only, / have I sinned
and done what is evil / in your sight.
Surely I was sin- / ful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother con- / ceived me.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I / will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whit- / er than snow.
Hide your face / from my sins
and blot out all my in- / iquity.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

2 Corinthians 7:8–13a

⁸Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—⁹yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹²So even though I wrote to you, it was neither on account of the one who did the wrong nor on account of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. ¹³By all this we are encouraged.

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

¹“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 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. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁶“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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.

HYMN: WITH ALL MY HEART I PRAISE YOU, LORD

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Sermon on Zechariah 1:1-6

In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo:

“The Lord was very angry with your ancestors. Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Return to me,’ declares the Lord Almighty, ‘and I will return to you,’ says the Lord Almighty. Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.’ But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the Lord. Where are your ancestors now? And the prophets, do they live forever? But did not my words and my decrees, which I commanded my servants the prophets, overtake your ancestors?

“Then they repented and said, ‘The Lord Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve, just as he determined to do.’”

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!**