

ASH WEDNESDAY

JOHN THE BAPTIST

As we begin our Lenten journey, we focus our attention upon various witnesses to Christ in John's Gospel. We begin with John the Baptist, a man on a mission. "There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as to witness concerning that light, so that through him all people might believe" (John 1:6–7). John the Baptist's mission is "to witness concerning that light." In fact, fourteen times in John's Gospel, the word witness is connected with John the Baptist. "He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every person was coming into the world" (John 1:8–9). John points us to Jesus, who takes away our sin, our guilt, and our shame at the cross.

PRELUDE "O Welt, ich muss dich lassen" -Paul Manz

ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS

Pastor: 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

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: hear us.

Pastor: God the Father in heaven,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: God the Holy Spirit,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

People: Spare us, good Lord.

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

People: Help us, good Lord.

Pastor: 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:

People: Help us, good Lord.

Pastor: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

People: Help us, good Lord.

Pastor: We poor sinners implore You

People: to hear us, O Lord.

Pastor: 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:

People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

Pastor: 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, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

Pastor: To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

People: we implore You to hear us.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: grant us Your peace.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: hear us.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy. Amen.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

+ THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES +

The pastor and assistants receive ashes first, followed by the congregation. Using the right thumb, the pastor or an assistant places the ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying:

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

After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his or her place in silence.

MUSIC DURING IMPOSITION OF ASHES “Beautiful Savior” -set. Robert Hobby

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

HYMN OF INVOCATION “Savior, When in Dust to Thee” *LSB* 419

- 1 Savior, when in dust to Thee
Low we bow the_adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe
Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!
- 2 By Thy helpless infant years,
By Thy life of want and tears,
By Thy days of deep distress
In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour
Of the_insulting tempter’s pow’r,
Turn, O turn a fav’ring eye;
Hear our penitential cry!
- 3 By Thine hour of dire despair,
By Thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies
O’er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh;
Hear our penitential cry!
- 4 By Thy deep expiring groan,
By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode
Held in vain the rising God,
O, from earth to heav’n restored,
Mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 51:1–3, 10–12; antiphon: v. 17*

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. **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.** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O merciful Lord, You have continually manifested Your love, delivering Your people from their sins not due to merit or worthiness but purely out of mercy and for the sake of the obedient life, life-giving death, and victorious resurrection of Your Son. Bless this Lenten journey to the cross that with new hearts we may acknowledge Your kindness and live in repentance and in the obedience of faith; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Joel 2:12–19*

Pastor: 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.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

Pastor: The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, the fifth and sixth chapters.

^{20b}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. ^{6:1}Working 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:29–34*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. ³³I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN “When All the World Was Cursed” *LSB* 346

- 1 When all the world was cursed
By Moses’ condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner’s zeal
The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.
- 2 Before he yet was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan’s rolling stream,
A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him
Of whom the prophets told:
- 3 Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world’s transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil’s dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.
- 4 O grant, dear Lord of love,
That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John,
Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk
Upon our Savior’s way
Until we live with Him
In His eternal day.

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SERMON

One of the shows that I have enjoyed binge-watching lately is the show *Ink Master*. As you can probably guess, it is a tattoo show. As an indecisive person, I’m amazed that people can see a design, love it, and then get it permanently put on them a few minutes later. However, after watching the show, it becomes apparent that not everyone likes their tattoo. Tattoo parlors really need a sign over their entrance that says, “Think Before You Ink.” They should place a recording in the background that says, “Do you really want to carry that on your shoulder for the rest of your life?”

It shouldn’t be a big surprise that tattoo removal has become a big business. More and more tattoo-bearing people experience what is called “tattoo regret syndrome.” According to a 2018 Harris Poll survey, the number of Americans with tattoos, and those considering tattoo removal, is on the rise. And it’s not cheap. To remove a single tattoo can take up to twelve sessions spaced out over the course of two years, and each treatment can cost between \$100 and \$400. Some say that it is more painful than the tattoo!

This whole thought got me wondering: what if our regrets showed up as tattoos, permanent marks on us. If they did, how marked up would we be? What pictures would we see in the mirror? Would it be the face of someone we hurt? The amount of money we wasted? All the couldas and shouldas? “I coulda been a better dad.” “I shoulda paid closer attention.” “I coulda been a better student.” Dig around in the basement of your life, and what do you find? Is it wasted years? Obsessive greed? Destructive diversions? Anger? Arrogance? Selfishness? What can we do with all of our unwanted marks?

Well, we can be defensive, right? When we’re defensive, we don’t admit anything. We tell no one. We keep the skeleton safely locked up in the closet. We seek innocence, and not forgiveness. When we’re defensive, we reduce life to one goal—hide the secret. Cover it up. Don’t address it. Don’t admit it. And whatever we do, don’t ever confess it.

When we see marks of regret, another option is to be defeated. When we’re defeated, we feel as though we don’t make mistakes—we are a mistake. We beat ourselves up repeatedly with blame and shame. We take the role of judge, jury, and accusing attorney. The verdict? Guilty—forever!

Defensive people hide marks. Defeated people replay marks. Is there a better way? You bet there is! We can be delivered from all of our ugly marks.

As we begin Lent on this Ash [Wednesday](#), we also begin our sermon series called Witnesses to Christ. And the first person who helps us follow Christ to the cross in John’s Gospel is John—that is, John the Baptist. What does John the Baptist say when we’re defensive about sin or defeated by sin? “**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**” When it comes to all of our ugly marks of sin, we can be delivered!

John says, “**Behold.**” *Behold* literally means “see.” The verb can be translated “Look! Gaze! Stare! Take note!” *Behold* means “Here is the whole point of what I’m saying!” John the Baptist says it again in John 1:36: “Behold!”

In both John 1:29 and 1:36, John the Baptist says, “**Behold, the Lamb of God!**” This isn’t an ordinary Lamb of God. This is the Passover Lamb of God. John uses the word *Passover* eleven times in his Gospel—eleven times! The entire Gospel is structured to help us behold, see, gaze, and take note of Christ—the Passover Lamb of God.

Exodus 12:5 says that the Passover lamb is a male lamb—perfect, spotless, and without defect. Exodus 12:7 says that Israelites are to place the Passover lamb’s blood on the sides and tops of their doorframes. This blood would set the Israelites free—free from slavery, free from Pharaoh, free from Egypt.

He continues: “**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away.**” The verb takes away is in present tense. And, what does that mean? It means that Christ still takes away. [Today](#), He takes away. [Tomorrow](#), He takes away. Next week, He takes away.

And what does He take away? He takes away the *sin of the world*. And that includes our sin. Our ugly sin. Our shameful sin. Our haunting sin. Our every single sin. He takes it all away. Christ not only takes away our guilt—that’s sin done by us. Christ also takes away our shame—that’s sin done to us. Guilt is what we feel when we’ve done wrong. Shame is what we feel when someone has wronged us.

We all know what public shame feels like. They are things like losing a job, divorce, losing a house, or our life’s savings. There’s also private shame. We’ve all felt that, too. No one else might know, but we know. And that’s enough to bury us in shame.

And so, what do we do? We might put our hands over our ears or splash water on our face. We might go for a long drive or indulge ourselves. However, it doesn’t ultimately work. Nothing takes away our shame. Nothing takes away our guilt. Sin has marked us, and that’s that. End of story? Not at all.

We don’t have to drink our sin away. Work our sin away. Explain our sin away, eat our sin away, cry our sin away, or bury our sin away. Why? “**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**”

And this can be hard to believe. It is easy to believe grace is for others; it can be hard to believe that grace is for me. Most of us have carried our ugly marks for so long that we can’t imagine life without them. Maybe we can’t imagine it, but God can. God does. And God does more than just imagine it. He sends John the Baptist, who says, “**Behold.** Look. See. Gaze. Here is the whole point of what I’m saying! **The Lamb of**

God takes away the sin of the world!" The Passover Lamb of God does it all, *for the whole world*. The Passover Lamb of God does it all for you!

And so we pray this prayer: "Jesus, please take it all away." We can tell Jesus what we did. We can tell Jesus what we said, what we saw, what we took, how we feel. We can tell Jesus what we thought. Pray this prayer as often as needed. One time, two times, ten times a day. Hold nothing back. No guilt is too ancient or too recent. No shame is too evil or too insignificant. No marks are so malicious that they can't be completely removed. "Jesus, please take it all away."

We're tempted to say, "Jesus, take it all away. I'm such a failure." But that doesn't work. For one thing, we're not failures. We're God's baptized children, and He loves us. For another, marks are removed only when they are exposed to grace.

What do you need grace for? For being a bad person? That's too general. For losing your patience at a meeting and calling your co-worker a jerk? There, you can confess that. Confession isn't punishment for sin. It is a beautiful gift. Confession names sin so it can be exposed to God's amazing grace.

Be firm in this prayer. Satan specializes in guilt and shame. He won't give up without a fight. We can say to Satan, "I left my sin with the Passover Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" How can he respond to that?

It's time for a clean start, a fresh slate, a new beginning. That's what Lent is all about. We don't need to be defensive or defeated. **Today**, we can be delivered, and are.

And we do that by looking at God's marks. Believe it or not: God has marks on His hands. Isaiah 49:16 starts, "**Behold. Behold!** There is that word! Look, see, gaze! Here is the whole point of what I'm saying. It continues: "**I have engraved you on the palms of My hands**". Jesus has your name written where He can see it. Your name is on His bloodstained hands. Jesus loves you that much!

If you've ever wondered how God reacts when guilt and shame have you cornered and are ready to swallow you whole. If you've ever wondered how God feels when you're lost, abandoned, and helpless. If you've ever wondered what God would do if He ever found out about it all—then frame these words and hang them on your wall. "**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**" We can trust these words. We can believe these words. Stand below these words, and trust Jesus to take it all away. Why? He is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!

Jesus took the nails. On a cross. On a God-forsaken cross, Jesus took the nails. And taking the nails, Jesus takes away all of our sin and shame. He hung there, for us, for you. Jesus still says, "**I have engraved you on the palms of My hands.**" In the end, in the end, these are the only marks that matter! These marks on Christ's hands will never be erased! Ever! Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.

OFFERTORY *LSB*, p. 159

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *LSB*, p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Holy are You, O Lord, God of power and might, and great is the majesty of Your glory, for You did so love the world that You gave Your only-begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Recalling all that He accomplished—His life-giving passion and death, His glorious resurrection from the dead, His ascension to Your right hand, and His promise to bestow His Spirit upon us—we give You thanks and beg Your mercy that we who commune this day may be filled with all heavenly benediction and peace. We rejoice in the gift of forgiveness for our many sins and are renewed by Your grace to serve You in holiness and righteousness all our days. To You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, in Your Holy Church, both now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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

Pastor: 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 T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI *LSB*, p. 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION "Lamb of God" *LSB* 550

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain

ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. Refrain

3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain

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"The Tree of Life" -set. John Eggert

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *LSB* p. 165

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:

A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

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.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give You thanks that You have sent to us Your own Son to be the Passover Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Grant to us faith like John the Baptist to keep our eyes upon the Lamb and to proclaim Him before the world, that those not yet of Your kingdom may rejoice with us in the love that has forgiven and restored us to be Your people; through Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN "I Lay My Sins on Jesus" *LSB* 606

1 I lay my sins on Jesus,
The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us
From the accursèd load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus
To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious
Till not a spot remains.

2 I lay my wants on Jesus;
All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases;
My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus,
My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases;
He all my sorrows shares.

3 I rest my soul on Jesus,
This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces;
I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus,
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes
His name abroad is poured. Text: Public domain