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# ASH WEDNESDAY

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1. *The ministers enter and go to their places as a hymn is sung.*

*Stand*

2. *The Divine Service begins with the INTROIT OF THE DAY.*

3. *The pastor addresses the congregation with these or similar words:*

**P** 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 that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

*Silence for reflection*

*Kneel/Stand*

4. *The pastor continues:*

**P** God the Father, in heaven,

**G** have mercy.

**P** **God the Son, Redeemer of the world,**

**G** have mercy.

**P** **God the Holy Spirit,**

**G** have mercy.

**P** **Be gracious to us.**

**G** Spare us, good Lord.

**P** **Be gracious to us.**

**G** Help us, good Lord.

**P** **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:**

**G** Help us, good Lord.

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

**G** Help us, good Lord.

**P** **We poor sinners implore you**

**G** to hear us, O Lord.

**P** **To prosper the preaching of your Word;  
to bless our prayer and meditation;  
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;  
to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:**

**G** We implore you to hear us, good Lord.



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# PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION WITH PALMS

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*1. Before the Divine Service the congregation gathers in some convenient place, the branches or fronds of palm are distributed, and the pastor says:*

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit † be with you all.

**C** And with your spirit.

**P** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C** Hosanna to the Son of David.

**P** Let us pray.

**Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet your dearly beloved Son when he came into his Holy City, grant that we may ever hail him as our King and, when he comes again, may go forth to meet him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. <250>**

**C** Amen

*2. The HOLY GOSPEL is announced and read.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

**A** The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is



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## MAUNDY THURSDAY STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

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1. Immediately after the Benediction in the Divine Service, the Communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday.

2. While this is done, one of the following psalms is sung antiphonally by the choir and congregation or by two groups within the congregation. The Gloria Patri is omitted.

### PSALM 22



<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?\*

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,\* by night, and am not silent.

<sup>3</sup> Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;\* you are the praise of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> In you our fathers put their trust;\* they trusted and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup> They cried to you and were saved;\* in you they trusted and were not disappointed.



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# GOOD FRIDAY AT NOONDAY

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*1. The ministers enter in silence and go to their places.*

*Stand*

## SENTENCES AND COLLECTS

**A** He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him,

**C** and with his stripes we are healed.

**A** Almighty God, graciously behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (31)

**C** Amen

**A** We all, like sheep, have gone astray;

**C** and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**A** Almighty and most merciful God, give us grace so to contemplate the Passion of our Lord that we may find in it the forgiveness of our sins; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. <251>

**C** Amen

*2. The HYMN, "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now," Hymn 109, is sung, stanzas 1 and 5.*