



Wednesday March 5th, 2025

Ash Wednesday: Forgiver

Call to Worship: "Love is This"

© 2023 Maverick City Publishing Worldwide | Ryan Ofei Publishing Designee | City and Vine Music

Publishing International | Be Essential Songs | Lizzieviv Music | A Wong Made Write Publishing | Integrity Worship Music | Integrity's Praise! Music | Said And Done Music
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

INVOCATION:

P We gather together as friends in the presence of the Triune God who has called us friends.
We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P A friend loves at all times,

C **And a brother is born for adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)**

P The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,

C **And he makes known to them his covenant. (Psalm 25:14)**

P A man of many companions may come to ruin,

C **But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24)**

P What a friend we have in Jesus,

C **All our sins and griefs to bear!**

P Precious Savior, still our refuge—

C **Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

OPENING HYMN LSB 609 vv 1-3 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

1 Jesus sinners doth receive;

Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

2 We deserve but grief and shame,

Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

3 Sheep that from the fold did stray

No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners doth receive. *Text: Public domain*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Jesus, friend of sinners, hear me as I confess my sins.

C **My thoughts have befriended sin and shame, not truth and righteousness.**

P O Lord, you have searched me and known me! (Psalm 139:1)

C **My words have befriended lies and slander, not love and mercy.**

P Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

C **My deeds have befriended hate and hurt, not peace and kindness.**

P You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

(Please silently reflect on the ways that you have befriended sin— and yet Jesus still calls you a friend.)

P Friends in Jesus: You have a Savior who has lived for you, died for you, and left the tomb empty for you. Your Servant Jesus has humbled himself to care for you. Your Friend, Christ Jesus, has cleansed you from all unrighteousness and washed away your sin. Jesus forgives you and loves you. Jesus is your friend now and for all eternity.

C **What a friend we have in Jesus.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Lord Jesus, you have invited us to take everything to you in prayer. You know our weaknesses and how we are heavy-laden. You know the burdens that we carry in our hearts and minds. Precious Savior, be our refuge. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us this Lent that we may know your friendship and love. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Joel 2:12-17

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;¹³ 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. 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 by word among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

EPISTLE READING Colossians 1:9-14

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹²giving thanks^[a] to the Father, who has qualified you^[b] to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

GOSPEL READING Luke 7:36-49

³⁶One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. ³⁷And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." ⁴¹"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹Then those who were at table with him began to say among^[a] themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"

SERMON HYMN LSB 570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> <p>2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> | <p>3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> <p>4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Public domain

SERMON "Forgiver" Luke 7: 36-49

PRAYERS

- P** Amid our trials, temptations and troubles, we have a friend who sticks with us. Where else can we find a friend so faithful? And, so, we take it to the Lord in prayer. Jesus, you know our every weakness and have promised to be our friend, so we lift our prayers and raise our petitions.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Deliver us from the mess of our sin, and let us never be defined by the messes that we make.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Deliver this world from the mess of evil and injustice, and befriend the vulnerable, the sojourner, the unborn and all who need a friend.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Deliver the self-righteous from their delusions and teach us to never underestimate the debts that you have forgiven on our behalf.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Deliver us from death, and remind us that friendship with you means that we are more than mere dust.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Deliver us from sorrow, discouragement and pain by the power of your abiding friendship.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Deliver us from apathy and malaise so that we can befriend our neighbors with your love.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Jesus, deliver us from isolation, and give us a seat at your table where we receive your body and blood.
- C** **Jesus, what a privilege it is to be your friend. Amen.**

COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

- P** Jesus has called you friends and made known to you all that he has heard from the Father. Go now as friends of Jesus befriending others in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- C** **What a friend we have in Jesus!**

CLOSING HYMN LSB 770

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield
thee; Thou wilt find a solace thee