

Remember, that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return!

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

A BIBLICAL, CONFESSIONAL AND TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION IN THE CHICAGO REGION

COMMITTED TO MINISTERING TO SINNERS

WITH THE FORGIVING PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.

Welcome to our congregation! The ashes imposed on our foreheads this day are a reminder of our unworthiness and sinfulness, sinfulness that corrupts and stains us and leads to death (we return to the dust from whence we came.) Ashes remind us of our original sin and our need of redemption, our need to be cleansed of sin and made worthy of Salvation. This is why the pastor speaks these words to you as he imposes ashes on your foreheads, "Remember, that you are dust and to dust you shall return" [Genesis 3:19]

We cannot appreciate God's infinite mercy if we do not realize we need mercy. We cannot understand salvation apart from our recognition of our need to be saved, rescued, from something namely our sin, which otherwise separates us forever from God. Ashes remind us of this need. When we wear the ashes on our heads, we also acknowledge the sacrifice of Christ, who forever substituted His own death for the "burnt offerings" made by Old Testament priests to atone for the sins of the people.

On Jewish fast days, or days of atonement, the penitent customarily wore sackcloth (burlap), placed ashes on his head, and went barefoot. These traditions associated with penance continued to be observed by the early Christians.



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church Practices Closed Communion

Dear Guests, Ash Wednesday begins the special season of penitential reflection that we call Lent. Ashes are a sign of repentance and sorrow and also a reminder of our human mortality. As this day and this season remind us of our sin and its wages, it is with repentant joy that we are also reminded of our forgiveness through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Intending to amend our sinful lives, we receive with thankfulness the forgiveness He has promised to give in the **Lord's Supper**. If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this evening. Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. **We do invite those who are not a member of the LCMS to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, as you kneel at the altar, please cross your arms so that your right hand is on your left shoulder and left hand is on your right shoulder. God bless you for Your understanding in this important matter.**

Invocation

Please Stand. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



+ THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

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

Silence for reflection.

Litany

P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **hear us.**
P God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy.**
P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**
P God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**
P Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**
P Be gracious to us.



*"The Litany is next to the Lord's Prayer
the very best that has come to earth."*

Martin Luther

C 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:

C 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:

C Help us, good Lord.

P We poor sinners implore You

C 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;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P 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 our need of prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

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

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

✠ Be Seated ✠

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Both adults and children who wish to receive ashes on their forehead this evening will be directed up the center aisle by the ushers. The pastor will impose ashes at the front pews, alternating between the two lines of people. After you have received ashes, continue around the front pew, down the side aisle, and back into your pew in silence.



✠ Stand ✠

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **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.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C **Yes.**

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ Peace.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12; antiphon: Psalm 51:17



- A** 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 trans- | gressions.**

**Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!**

**For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.**

**Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.**

**Cast me not away from Your | presence,*
and take not Your Holy Spirit | from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of Your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.**

- C** 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.

- A** The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will | not despise.

KYRIE — *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

- C** (sung) **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C (Sung) **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

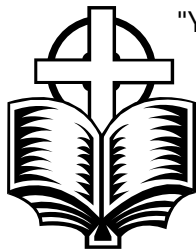
Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ Be Seated ✠

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19



"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. ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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?'" ¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹ 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.

The Gradual

O come, let us fix our eyes on | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

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. We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

✠ Stand ✠

“True repentance is not
confined to a day or a season,
but is the daily drowning of
the old Adam through
contrition and faith.”

~ Martin Luther ~

Verse of the Day

Joel 2:13b

(Sung) **Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C (sung) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**



[Jesus said:] "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right

hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you..

"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C (sung) **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

"The hypocrite's prayers ascend no higher than their lips, for they seek only to be seen. But the humble prayer of faith is treasured in heaven, where the Father rewards what is done in secret."

Johann Gerhard

Apostles' Creed

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

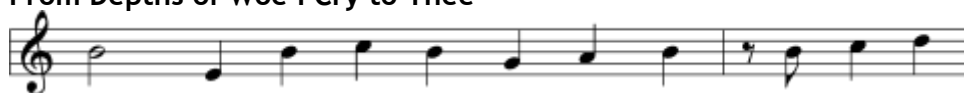
**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God 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.**

"When we confess the Creed, we do not merely repeat words, but we declare our faith before God, the Church, and the world. It is our witness that we belong to Christ and His kingdom."

C.F.W. Walther

From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee



1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and
2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out
3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in
4 And though it tar - ry through the night And till the
5 Though great our sins, yet great - er still Is God's a -



trib - u - la - tion; Bend down Thy gra - cious
my trans - gres - sion; The best and ho - liest
mine own mer - it; It rests up - on His
morn - ing wak - en, My heart shall nev - er
bun - dant fa - vor; His hand of mer - cy



ear to me, Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion.
deeds must fail To break sin's dread op - pres - sion.
faith - ful Word To them of con - trite spir - it
doubt His might Nor count it - self for - sak - en.
nev - er will A - ban - don us, nor wa - ver.



If Thou re - mem - b'rest ev - 'ry sin, Who then could heav - en
Be - fore Thee none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear Thy
That He is mer - ci - ful and just; This is my com - fort
O Is - rael, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spir - it
Our shep - herd good and true is He, Who will at last His



ev - er win Or stand be - fore Thy pres - ence?
strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.
and the Word, Now wait for His ap - pear - ing.
Is - rael free From all their sin and sor - row.

Sermon

✠ Stand ✠

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen**

✠ Be Seated ✠

Offering

✠ Stand ✠

Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12

C (sung) **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**



Service of the Sacrament

Dear Guests, Please read our Communion Practice on page 3 of this service folder.

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

- P** The Lord be with you.
C (sung) **And with thy spirit.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C (sung) **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
C (sung) **It is meet and right so to do.**



Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary..... evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS — *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

- C** (sung) **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory;
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is ☩ He
that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

"IF YOU WANT TO FIND CHRIST, DO NOT LOOK TO THE
HEAVENS AS IF HE IS FAR OFF, BUT COME TO THE
SACRAMENT, WHERE HE HAS PROMISED TO BE. THERE
YOU WILL FIND HIM, AS NEAR AS HIS WORD, AS NEAR
AS HIS BODY AND BLOOD."

- MARTIN LUTHER

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- C** 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

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Pax Domini — *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C (sung) **Amen.**


Agnus Dei

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.


✕ Be Seated ✕

DISTRIBUTION


I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain



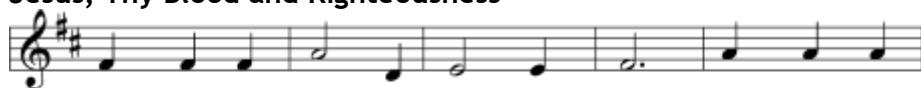
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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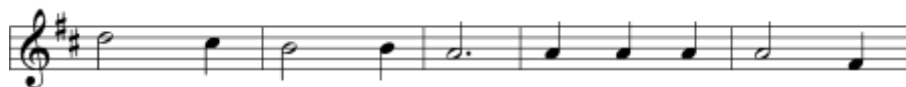
"There is no higher treasure on earth than Christ's body and blood, for in them, we have all that we need for salvation, strength, and the peace of God."

Wilhelm Loehe

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
 3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
 4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
 deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
 mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives,
 on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
 these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
 lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

- 5 When from the dust of death I rise
 To claim my mansion in the skies,
 This then shall be my only plea:
 Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
 Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
 For me, and all Thy hands have made,
 An everlasting ransom paid.



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✠ Stand ✠

Dismissal

- ☐ The eating and drinking of your Savior's sacred body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the one true Christian faith unto life everlasting. Depart in the joy of His Peace.

☐ **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis — *Song of Simeon*

Luke 2:29-32

- C** (sung) **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy Word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which
Thou has prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the
Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.**
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as
it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

- P** Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good,
C (sung) **and His mercy endureth forever.**

Post-Communion Collect

- P** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this
salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us
through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
C (sung) **Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus

2 Timothy 4:22

- P** The Lord be with you.
C (sung) **And with thy spirit.**
P Bless we the Lord.
C (sung) **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
C (sung) **Amen, amen, amen.**

LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME



The Flow of Ash Wednesday Liturgy in Lutheran Worship

Liturgy Component	Scriptural Basis	Lutheran Reflection
Call to Repentance	Joel 2:12-19	<i>Repentance is a return to God's mercy, not just an outward act. (Gerhard)</i>
Confession & Ashes	Psalms 51:1-13	<i>Ashes remind us of mortality, but God creates a new heart in us. (Luther)</i>
Gospel & Sermon	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	<i>True repentance is not for show but is done in faith. (Walther)</i>
Holy Communion	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	<i>The Lord's Supper is the ultimate means of grace in Lent. (Formula of Concord)</i>





“The darkness was not merely of the sky, but of judgment, as the sin of the world was laid upon Christ.”

Origen of Alexandria – (253 A.D.)



“He speaks the words of abandonment so that you, when abandoned, might know that He has already stood in your place.”

St. John Chrysostom – (407 A.D.)





✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠

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The Lutheran Church has always retained ceremonies that support the Gospel—the good news that we are saved by *grace alone* through *faith alone* in *Christ alone*. Such laudable ceremonies include making the sign of the cross in remembrance of Holy Baptism. Those places in the service where Lutherans have traditionally made the sign of the cross are marked with a cross (✠).
