

Ash Wednesday – 2025

Wednesday, March 5 at 11 am & 7 pm

# Savior When in Dust to Thee



Text: LSB 419 and NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends, this sermon focuses on the popular Ash Wednesday hymn: **Savior When in Dust to Thee**. As I read and comment on the words, let us **remember** our sins, **be sorry** for them, and **receive** God's forgiveness anew. *This hymn is addressed to Jesus.*

## 1. **Our Attitude – Regarding Our Sins:**

- a. **Savior, when in dust to Thee, Low we bow the adoring knee;** // When we rightly contrast ☩Jesus' greatness with ☩our sinfulness, *we should bow before Him in adoration!*
- b. **When, repentant, to the skies, Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;** // As we remember ☩who Jesus is and ☩what He did, may *our repentance be thorough and our sorrow be godly.*
- c. **O, by all Thy pains and woe, Suffered once for us below,** // We sinned and yet – *amazingly* – Jesus *was willing and suffered much to remove our sins!*

- d. **Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!** // Jesus ☉lived, ☉suffered, ☉died, ☉was raised, and ☉is now reigning. **Dear Jesus, in Your mercy, please hear our cry for forgiveness!**

## 2. **Jesus' Life – As Our Sinless Substitute:**

- a. **By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears, // THINK** – The very Son of God ☉put on flesh, ☉lived as a helpless infant, and ☉grew up with many struggles.
- b. **By Thy days of deep distress, In the savage wilderness, //** After Jesus was baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit, *the Bible says that “Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came [to Him] (Matt. 4:1-3).* // Jesus ♦faced real temptations and ♦defended Himself with God’s word. Whenever God permits us to be tempted, two promises stand – *for our great benefit (1Cor. 10:13):*
- i. The temptation will never be greater than we can endure.
  - ii. God will always provide a way to escape, *and not fall into*, the sin.
- c. **By the dread, mysterious hour, Of the \_insulting tempter’s pow’r,** // Adam and Eve were tempted and fell; then the Israelites, *who were delivered from their slavery in Egypt*, were tempted and fell. However, Satan himself tempted Jesus for 40 days in the wilderness, and yet †He never fell, †He never sinned, †He remained our sinless substitute! TbtGod!!!

- d. **Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye; Hear our penitential cry!**  
// In **Luke 18** Jesus told a parable about a **Pharisee** who thought he was better than others, *in contrast to a tax collector who was “unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’”* (Luke 18:13). Dear Jesus, let us ▶be like the tax collector, ▶humbly seek Your mercy, and ▶fully receive Your favoring eye!

### 3. **Jesus' Agony – During His Final Hours:**

- a. **By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine agony of prayer,** // **THINK** – Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, *pleading with His Father to save the world by other means – if possible, and* being in such anguish that He sweat drops of blood (Luke 22:39-46).
- b. **By the cross, the nail, the thorn, Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,** // **Image if you knew** – †you would soon be crucified, †large nails would be driven through your body, †the full weight of your body would hang on those nails, and †many would mock you! ***Jesus endured that and more for our salvation!***
- c. **By the gloom that veiled the skies, O'er the dreadful sacrifice,** // At noon the sun stopped shining, and Jesus hung in darkness and silence for three hours – ***bearing our sins and God's eternal punishment!***
- d. **Listen to our humble sigh; Hear our penitential cry!**  
// When we are hurting, *we sometimes make an audible moan.* Dear Jesus, as we think about ▶Your suffering and ▶our sin that caused Your suffering, ***we humbly moan for Your gift of forgiveness!***

#### 4. **Jesus' Victory – Death, Burial, and Resurrection:**

- a. **By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone, // THINK** – 4,000 years earlier, *the Savior was promised*; then, *at the appointed time*, He ♦came, ♦lived, and ♦suffered; then, when His work was done, *He laid down His life!*
- b. **By the vault whose dark abode, Held in vain the rising God, //** Late on Good Friday, *before the sun set and the day ended*, Jesus' lifeless body was ♦taken down, ♦prepared, and ♦entombed. It seemed so final, *but it wasn't!* On the third day, **God raised Him up!**
- c. **O, from earth to heav'n restored, Mighty, reascended Lord, //** After 40 days of showing Himself alive, *Jesus ascended to reign over all things*, especially over the Church – *over those who know Him and follow Him as Savior and Lord!*
- d. **Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry! //** Now, *remembering Jesus' incredible work to save us*, let us keep crying out to Him with godly sorrow – *confident of being heard and forgiven!*

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Jesus, You know our tendency to minimize our sins and Your saving work; therefore, *help us to do the opposite*: ♦knowing our sins are very serious and ♦knowing Your work is enough to make us righteous in God's sight. Please bless this Lenten Season for †our spiritual good and †Your eternal glory!

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