



Worship Program  
February 14, 2024  
Ash Wednesday

## Introduction

*On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

## Psalm 51:1-17

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. In your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**C: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

P: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**C: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. So, you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

P: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother’s womb.

**C: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

P: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean. Wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**C: Let me hear joy and gladness. That the body you have broken may rejoice.**

P: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my wickedness.

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

P: Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**C: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

P: Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

**C: Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

P: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**C: For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

P: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit. A troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

Greeting *(Please stand if you are able)*

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

**C: And also, with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2,12-17

*Because of the coming day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community declares that God is gracious and asks God to spare the people lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

WA: Blow the trumpet in Zion. Sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near. A day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes. Their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. Rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. 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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion. sanctify a fast. Call a solemn assembly. Gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation. Assemble the aged. Gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

The Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks Be to God.**

### Special Music

"Ashes" Choir

### Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.*

WA: We entreat 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. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time. See, now is the day of salvation!

We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way. Through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger.

By purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God. With the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left.

In honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true. As unknown, and yet are well known. As dying, and see we are alive. As punished, and yet not killed. As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing. As poor yet making many rich. As having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Setting 1, ELW pg. 103) (*Please stand if you are able*)

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew

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

P: Jesus said to the disciples: "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them. For then you have no reward from your Father in heaven."

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others."

“Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret.”

“And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever 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 whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.”

“But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal.”

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: The gospel of the Lord,

**C: Praise to you O, Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

Sermon

## Hymn of the Day “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling” Hymn 608

*(Please stand if you are able)*



- 1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
- 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
- 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

### *Refrain*



watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!”  
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

## Invitation to Lent *(Please be seated)*

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy.

We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.

But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent, self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love, strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.

Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## Confession of Sin *(please remain seated)*

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

P: Most holy and merciful God,

**C: we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## Blessing of Ashes

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life. Through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Imposition of Ashes

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

## Special Music during receiving of ashes

“Amazing Grace/ House of the Rising Sun” Choir

**“Come, Ye, Disconsolate”** Hymn 607

- 1      Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;  
         come to the mercy-seat, fervently kneel.  
         Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;  
         earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.
- 2      Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,  
         hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure;  
         here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,  
         "Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot cure."

- 3        Here see the Bread of life; see waters flowing  
          forth from the throne of God, pure from above.  
          Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing  
          earth has no sorrow but heav'n can remove.

**“Savior When In Dust to You” Hymn 601**

- 1        Savior, when in dust to you  
          low we bow in homage due;  
          when, repentant, to the skies  
          scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
          oh, by all your pains and woe  
          suffered once for us below,  
          bending from your throne on high,  
          hear our penitential cry!
- 2        By your helpless infant years,  
          by your life of want and tears,  
          by your days of deep distress  
          in the savage wilderness,  
          by the dread, mysterious hour  
          of the insulting tempter's pow'r,  
          turn, oh, turn a fav'ring eye;  
          hear our penitential cry!
- 3        By your hour of dire despair,  
          by your 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 your deep expiring groan,  
          by the sad sepulchral stone,  
          by the vault whose dark abode  
          held in vain the rising God,  
          oh, from earth to heav'n restored,  
          mighty, reascended Lord,  
          bending from your throne on high,  
          hear our penitential cry!

## Prayers of Intercession

*(Please stand if you are able)*

WA: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

WA: You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war. Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray for caregivers and people who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for those who served you in the church. Bring us with all the saints into everlasting joy. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also, with you.**

## Offertory Song

**“Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”** (Hymn 716) v.1-3

## Offering Prayer

*(Please stand if you are able)*

P: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **C: Amen.**

## The Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also, with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

P: And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**“Holy, Holy, Holy”** (Setting 1, ELW pg. 108)

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**C: Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

### Invitation to Communion

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come! *(Please be seated)*

**“O Lamb of God”** (Setting 1, ELW pg. 112)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins 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, grant us peace.

### Special Music

“Forgiven” performed by Crowder

### Prayer after Communion

*(Please stand if you are able)*

P: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world.

In the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **C: Amen.**

## Blessing

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## Sending Hymn "Our Father, We Have Wandered" Hymn 606



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share your bread. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**MT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1000 SCALP AVE**

**All You Can Eat**

# **PANCAKES**

**2 SAUSAGE PATTIES OR  
BACON AND OJ, MILK OR  
COFFEE**

**\$7**

**CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER  
\$5.00**

**\$7**



**Sat., Feb. 17**

**8 - 11 A.M.**

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