



Liturgy for Ash Wednesday
First English Lutheran Church
February 22, 2023
7:30 p.m.

PRELUDE

“Day of Wrath, O Day of Mourning”

- Camil Van Hulse

“Pleading Savior”

- Raymond Haan

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday is somber and penitential. We are invited to confront two truths that we prefer to avoid: we are sinful and we are mortal. The good news is that Christ shares our mortality, bears our sin, and offers us in exchange his life.

The liturgy tonight begins with Psalm 51.

The congregation is invited to repeat the refrain after it is sung by the cantor and throughout the psalm.

PSALM 51

Lord, Have Mercy

1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against 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. **Refrain**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,

and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice. *Refrain*

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. *Refrain*

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise. *Refrain*

REETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may sit.

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 reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

¹Blow 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—
²a 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.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 ¹³rend 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.

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;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 ¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between 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.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Touch Me with Ashes" - Stacey Nordmeyer

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.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit,

genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Restore in Us, O God”

Red Book #328

INVITATION TO LENT

page 251 in the front of the red book

CONFESSION OF SIN

page 251 in the front of the red book

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward at the direction of the ushers and kneel or stand at the altar rail, returning to their seats by the side aisle. After all have received ashes, the congregation may kneel.

CONCLUDING DIALOGUE

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

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.

Amen.

PRAYERS

God has made us a new creation in Christ. Living together in trust and hope, let us pray for the renewal of the earth, the church, and our very lives.

O Lord, our God, you gather your church and call us to return to you. Accompany us throughout these 40 days of Lent. Create in us clean hearts. Help us let go of those things that no longer serve you and welcome the new creation in Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Be with those who will be affected by extreme weather this week, especially those who do not have adequate shelter, and also those who will undertake dangerous labor for the sake of others. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Renew the nations, O God. Loosen the bonds of injustice and bring an end to all violence, oppression, and persecution. Bring an end to war in Ukraine. Shower the long-suffering people of Syria with mercy. Preserve us all from danger. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Renew your people, O God, especially those in need of healing and hope. Bless those who are sick. Go one day at a time with those in recovery. Give those in deep mourning light for each next step. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. Inspire our faith formation ministries and those who teach and lead, especially Sharon, our Christian education coordinator. Give us all a clear sense of calling as hearers of your Word. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Renew us by the example of those who have gone before us in faith and love, and at the last, bring us with them into your everlasting presence. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation may stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The congregation may share a sign of Christ's peace.

ORGAN OFFERTORY

“St. Mark 14:1-16 for Organ”

- Gerhard Krapf

OFFERING HYMN

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

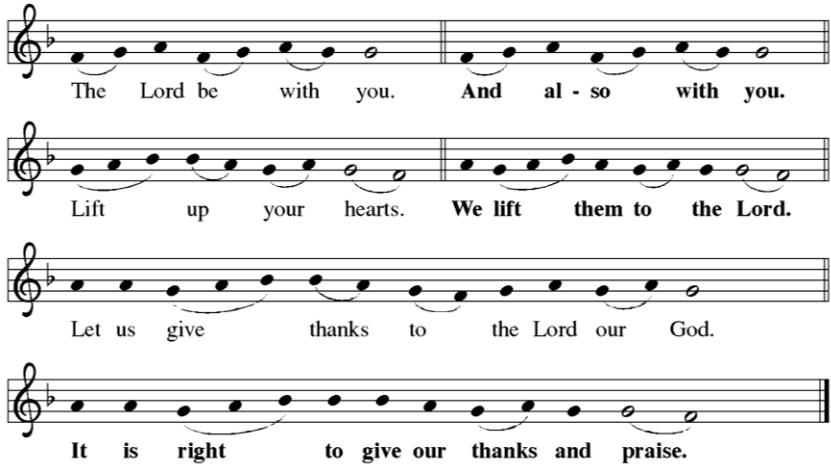
Red Book #188

OFFERING PRAYER *led by the assisting minister*

Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

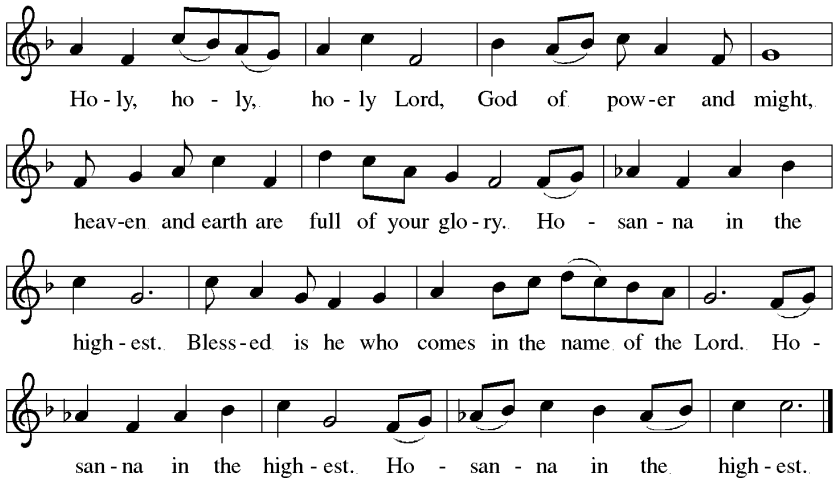
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation...*(the presiding minister continues giving thanks)*....

Therefore, according to his command, O God:
We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you...(*the presiding minister concludes*)... In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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,

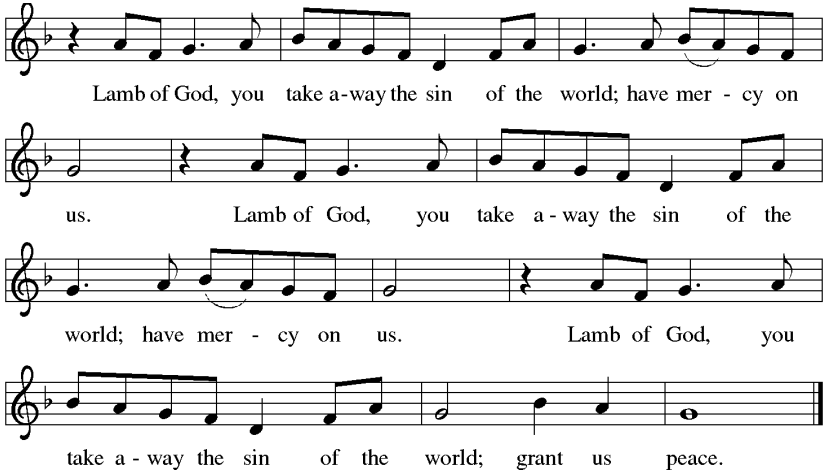
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

All are welcome to Holy Communion today. Lutherans believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. The ushers will invite you forward to receive. Gluten free wafers are available; please let the pastor know if you wish to receive them. If you are able to receive either bread or wine (but not both), please know that you still receive the full communion.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *led by the assisting minister*

Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew in us the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

Red Book #712

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE
"Agnus Dei"

- Craig Penfield

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Kimberly van Driel

Rev. Ryan Fitch

Lois Trimbur

Larry Hamil

Marlin Boltz

Karen Boltz

Harry Cunningham

Signe Mitchell

Bob and Karen Domanski

Roxanne Glagola

Preacher

Presiding Minister

Assisting Minister

Reader

AV Assisting Minister

PowerPoint Assisting Minister

Sr. Choir Director

Organist

Ushers

Altar Guild