

Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Ash Wednesday

WELCOME

~~~~~Gather in Silence~~~~~

PSALM 51:1-17 – read responsively

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

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

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

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

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

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

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

<sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

**P** *In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

**G** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** *For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.*

**G** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** *For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.*

**G** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** *For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.*

**G** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** *Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

**G** **Amen.**

#### GREETING

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**G** **And also with you.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** *Almighty and ever-living God,*

**G** **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. Amen!**

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"If With All Your Hearts"*

Felix Mendelssohn

Aaron Schmidt, baritone

#### FIRST READING - Ann Newman, 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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—  
<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,  
    return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
    <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the LORD, your God,  
    for the LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
    and relents from punishing.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether the LORD will not turn and relent,  
    and leave behind a blessing,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
    for the LORD, your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>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 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.*

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

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with God, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For God 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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**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.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“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.

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

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>“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.

<sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

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

## SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

## SONG OF THE DAY

*“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”*

ELW 319

**O Lord, throughout these forty days  
you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin,  
and free us from our past.**

**You strove with Satan, and you won;  
your faithfulness endured;  
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust  
in God's eternal word.**

**Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed  
and fixed your mind above;  
so teach us to deny ourselves  
that we may know God's love.**

**Be with us through this season, Lord,  
and all our earthly days,  
that when the final Easter dawns,  
we join in heaven's praise.**

## INVITATION TO LENT

pg. 252

**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.*

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

*(a brief silence is kept)*

*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.**

**REMEMBRANCE**

**P** *Almighty God, we remember that you have created us out of the dust of the earth and to the dust we will return. The ashes we usually impose on our foreheads this day are 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!**

- 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!

**PRAYER SONG**

***“Change My Heart Oh God”***

**Change my heart oh God  
 Make it ever true  
 Change my heart oh God  
 May I be like You**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** – led by Debbie & Bruce Taylor

*We remember in our prayers*

*Floreen Johnson, Dave Newman, Chris and Andy Wilson (friends of Sharon Gray),  
 Dave Schmidt, Felicia Rush Blanc, Sarah Pierce, Rick & Cyndi Zebelean (friends of Sharmyn  
 Thompson), Sylvia Rush (grandmother of Felicia Rush Blanc), Myrene Bunge, Pamma Williams,  
 Lynn Ann Flora (friend of Laurel Goforth), Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall), Reed Nelson,  
 Dorothy Masteller, Dee Rasmussen, the friends and family of Marlene Hebb*

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*Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.*

*A brief silence.*

*Merciful God, refresh the hearts of your faithful people across all lands and generations. Rescue your church from affliction, hardship, or persecution. Remove all obstacles standing in the way of our witness to your grace, mercy, and everlasting love. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Renewing God, bless all wilderness places and all inhabitants of the land. Protect untouched ecosystems, satisfy parched places, and strengthen roots and seeds beneath the soil that await their time to flourish. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Restoring God, rebuild and repair nations ravaged by war or famine. Humble the hearts of governments and authorities, that they loose the bonds of injustice and liberate the oppressed. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Generous God, provide bread for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and protection for the vulnerable. Listen to the cries of all who are abused, imprisoned, and who suffer due to pain,*

*anxiety, or illness. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: Floreen, Dave, Chris and Andy, Dave, Felicia, Sarah, Rick & Cyndi, Sylvia, Myrene, Pamma, Lynn Ann, Keira, Reed, Dorothy, Dee, the friends and family of Marlene, and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Faithful God, renew our practices of devotion and discipleship. Make us generous in giving, steadfast in prayer, and attentive to your grace amid many distractions. Be with those who prepare for baptism and affirmation of baptism. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Redeeming God, you raise us from the dust of death and mark us with the cross of salvation. Strengthen us by the faithfulness of the saints. Restore our joy and lead us by your bountiful grace. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.*

**Amen!**

## **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.**

## **PREFACE**

**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 call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.  
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:*

## **SANCTUS**

pg. 190

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.*

*You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.  
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.*

*We give you thanks for his coming into the  
world to fulfill for us your holy will and to  
accomplish all things for our salvation.*

*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.*

*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.*

*For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

*Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death,  
his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;*

*we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.  
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.*

**☞ Amen!**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**☞ 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**

**☞** *God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it. All are welcome.*

### **COMMUNION**

### **BLESSING**

**☞** *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

**☞ Amen!**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**☞** *God of steadfast love,*  
**☞ at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in**

**the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

### **BENEDICTION**

**P** *You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.  
God bless you  $\text{✠}$  that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.*

**C** **Amen!**

### **SENDING SONG**

***“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”***

**ELW 818**

**O Master, let me walk with you  
in lowly paths of service true;  
tell me your secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**Help me the slow of heart to move  
by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.**

**Teach me your patience; share with me  
a closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong,**

**In hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broad'ning way,  
in peace that only you can give;  
with you, O Master, let me live.**

### **DISMISSAL**

**P** *Go in peace. Share the good news.*

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

### **POSTLUDE**

***“In Paradisum”***  
Sharon Gray, organ

Jean Bouvard

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Rev. Keith Hohly, Interim Pastor

**Instruments:** Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Roger Lenander | Guitar/Bass – Jim Pierce

**Song leaders and vocal talents:** Sharmyn Thompson, Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,  
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge,  
Carol Bunge, and Roger Lenander

**Music and Liturgy:**

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para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929–2003  
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