

# Ash Wednesday

Service of the Word  
Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021

*The ministers enter in silence.*

## Gathering

### **OPENING PSALM 51:1-17**

*Chanted by the cantor.*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.  
Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.  
For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.  
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.  
Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.  
Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.  
Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.  
Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.  
Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.  
Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.  
Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.  
Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.  
Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.  
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.  
O Lord, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.  
For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.  
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.  
The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

*Please sit.*

**GREETING**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Word

**FIRST READING** *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17*

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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN #320** The Glory of These Forty Days



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -  
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing  
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered  
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength-en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.  
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543  
 Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906, All rights reserved.

**SECOND READING** *2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

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. 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! 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL** *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

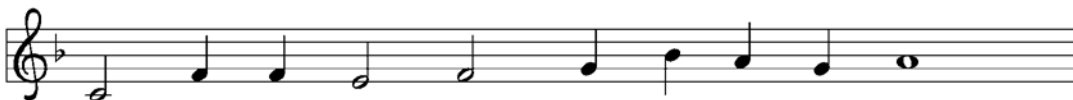
### HYMN OF THE DAY #321 Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

## INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' pass-over 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.

*Please sit.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most holy and merciful God,

**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.**

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

... Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Spoken by all.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

## Sending

### **BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN #601** Savior, When in Dust to You



1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;  
2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,  
3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,  
4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,



when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;  
by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,  
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,  
by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be - low,  
by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,  
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,  
oh, from earth to heav'n re - stored, might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord,



bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
turn, oh, turn a fa - v'ring eye; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.  
Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841–1903

## **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.**

*The ministers and congregation depart in silence.*

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# The Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

*Of all Lenten hymns and prayers, one short prayer can be termed the Lenten prayer.  
Tradition ascribes it to one of the great teachers of spritual life, St. Ephraim the Syrian.*

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, faintheartedness,  
lust of power and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience  
and love to your servant. Yea O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors and  
not to judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

## Serving today

Presiding	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
Preaching	Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson
Organist	Andrew Schaeffer
Cantor	Bruce Curtis

Prayers of the Church are provided by Mike Bradley.

### **Luther Memorial Church staff**

The Rev. Brad Pohlman, Senior Pastor  
The Rev. John Worzala Dumke, Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Rebecca Ninke, Visitation Pastor  
Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson, Seminary Intern  
Sarah Brinkman, Office Coordinator  
Andrew Schaeffer, Director of Music  
Sueilyn Swiggum, Director of Shared Ministry  
Robin Wagner, Director of Communication  
Emilye West, Business Administrator  
Dan Zerger, Custodian

### **Lutheran Campus Ministry**

The Rev. Emily Tveite

### **Parroquia Santa Maria**

The Rev. Kirsten Worzala Dumke, Mission Pastor

### **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop  
The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Synod Bishop