



**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 22, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**

## The Order of Service

### The Prelude

### The Ringing of the Bell

*Stand*

### The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### The Psalm (read responsively)

**Psalm 51:1-17**

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 ever 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 purer 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 spirit within me.**

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

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

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

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

O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall declare 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.

*Sit*

### **The Exhortation**

P: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love--the discipline of Lent--help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

### **The Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Most Holy and merciful Father:

**C: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P: God spoke all these words, saying, I am the LORD your God. You shall have no other gods.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

P: You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

P: You shall sanctify the holy-day.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

P: You shall honor your father and your mother.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

P: You shall not murder.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

P: You shall not commit adultery.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

P: You shall not steal.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

P: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

P: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

P: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

## **The Imposition of Ashes**

*The imposition of ashes follows. Those who desire to receive ashes come forward in one line. The minister applies ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The people return to their seats by the side aisle.*

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 Lord,

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

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*Stand*

## **The Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: 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**

*Sit*

## **The First Lesson**

**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?’”

A: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **The Second Lesson**

**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. 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.

A: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Stand*

## **The Gospel**

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

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

“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**

## **The Sermon**

**The Hymn 482 - *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***

ROCKINGHAM OLD

## **The Prayer of the Church,**

*After each petition:*

P: Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*The prayer concludes:*

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

## **The Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: *Greet others near you in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**R: Peace be with you.**

## **The Offering**

**Offering Prayer, p. 108**

**Great Thanksgiving and Proper Preface, p. 109**

**Sanctus, p. 110 – Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Eucharistic Prayer (#33) and Words of Institution, p. 111**

**Lord's Prayer, p. 113**

**Agnus Dei, p. 114 – Lamb of God**

*Sit*

## **The Communion**

**The Communion Blessing** (*After all have communed*)

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

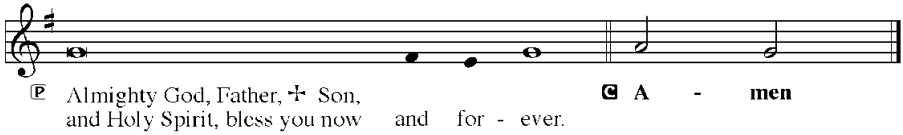
**C: Amen**

*Stand*

## **The Prayer**

A: Let us pray: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

## The Benediction



## The Hymn 99 - O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

CAITHNESS

**All are welcome** to commune with us. We ask that you have been baptized, and that you share our Lutheran teaching that in, with, and under the bread and wine is the real presence of Jesus Christ.

**The Imposition of Ashes** on our foreheads serves as a reminder that we are mortal creatures for whom birth and death limit our earthly existence. As is traditional, the ashes which we use this evening are from the burning of palm branches carried last year on Palm Sunday.

### Worship Enablers

Evan McClanahan, *Presiding Minister*

Cindy Sneed, *Assisting Minister*

Alister McClanahan, *Acolyte*

Carolyn Hokanson, *Altar Guild*