

Word & Confession
In observance of
Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021
St. John Lutheran Church
Fairfield, Pennsylvania

Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer and penitence that begins the forty-day season of Lent. During Lent we prepare for the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Lent is a time when we are invited to carry out the Lenten discipline, practices of fasting, prayer and works of love, as we journey with those in our community and around the world preparing for baptism at Easter.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

HYMN *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* 326 vs 1,2

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found. | 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found. |
|--|---|

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

WELCOME

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty 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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you O Lord!

Jesus said to those gathered "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.

‘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!

HYMN

On Eagle's Wings

ELW 787 vs 1,2,4

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture
you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge,
with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

4 For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Confession

Invitation

P: Friends in Christ, every year at the time of our Lord Jesus Christ's Passover from death to life, with the church throughout the world we celebrate our redemption from sin, death and the devil. Lent is a time to renew our life in the paschal mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection, which we participate in through the sacramental life of the church. It is a time to prepare candidates for baptism and holy communion.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We show our resolve to amend our lives with the sign of ashes, which speak of our mortality and symbolize our repentance. I invite you, therefore, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by almsgiving and works of love, and by attending to the word of God and receiving the sacraments

of Christ as we journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

(silence for reflection)

P: Most holy and merciful God,

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, 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.

P: We have been deaf 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.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us.

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

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, we confess to you,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, we confess to you,

C: Have mercy on us.

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

C: Have mercy on us.

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

C: Have mercy on us.

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.

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.

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

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

Conclusion of the Confession

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

C: Amen

Blessing and anointing

P: Almighty God, bless this oil + for our anointing and healing. May this sign remind us of the oneness we share with you in Christ Jesus and with one another. In this pandemic since we must be careful we are signing ourselves as a reminder of the priesthood we share as baptized children of God through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

Presiding Minister
Music Director
Worship Assistant
Behind the Camera

Pastor Beverly Lange Donnella
Carol Garman
Linn Wichowski
Stacey and Josh Haynes

+++++

Mid-Week Lenten Evening Prayer

The order of Evening Prayer may be used during the Lenten Season by going to our website.

www.stjohnfairfield.net

Readings and prayers appropriate for the daily cycle will be posted.

A Lenten packet will also be made available.