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**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**March 6, 2019**  
**GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

*Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.*

**Please enter in silence**

*The time before worship is a time for prayer and meditation  
to prepare your hearts for worship*

**OPENING HYMN No. 793..... "Be Thou My Vision"**

**GREETING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

**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.*

<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 he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <sup>14</sup>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? <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?'"  
Here ends the first lesson.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 51:1-17**

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

**C: 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.

**C: 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.

**C: 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.

**C: 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.

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away<sup>1</sup> from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**C: 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.

**C: 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 proclaim your praise.

**C: 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.

The word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

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

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

[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.” 18Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" 19They answered, "John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen." 20He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "The Messiah of God." 21He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, 22saying, "The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." 23Then he said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. 25What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? 26Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. 27But truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.      **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SERMON** ..... **Pastor Joyce Tollefson Capp**

**EVENING HYMN No. 599**..... **“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”**

**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.)*

P: 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.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.*

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, of 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.**

## RECEIVING OF OUR OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**C: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ..... No. 638, 484 & 483**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in 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**

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

**C: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

P: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SENDING HYMN No. 328..... “Restore in Us, O God”**

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- Ministers..... Members of First Lutheran Church**
- Pastor ..... Rev. Joyce Tollefson Capp**
- Reader ..... Brad Willey**
- Imposition of Ashes ..... Cynthia Portz**
- Organist ..... Sandy Roemmich**
- Greeters & Ushers..... Chase Wilson, Alex Willey, Hudson Burnett, Caleb Velde**
- Sound..... Mark Zinnel**
- Communion Assistant ..... Chris Hollingsworth**

***Our theme for Lent this year is: Sensing the Gospel: A Five-Part Series of Meditations for Lent.***



***Lenten suppers*** will be served for 6-weeks during Lent services beginning tonight. The schedule for the Suppers has been changed. Suppers this year will be served from 5:30 to 6:15 *prior* to the weekly Lent Worship service. A sign-up sheet is in the

Narthex for individuals or groups that would like to prepare and serve the weekly suppers. Cost of the Lenten Suppers will remain the same as past years: Children 4-years and younger – **Free**, Individual - **\$5.00** & Family of 3 or more- **\$15.00**. Proceeds to go towards 2019 Youth Mission Trip.

