

## Ash Wednesday February 17, 2021

In Person worship, Saturday, 5 pm and Sunday at 8 am and 10:30 am  
Sunday service will be livestream on Facebook at 10:30 am

*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.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**      What Wondrous Love Is This      arr. Marion Gaspard

*The assembly gathers in silence.*

### **GATHERING**

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.*

### **\*GREETING**

*The assembly stands. The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.  
**Amen.**

### **WORD**

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*God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song.*

### **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.*

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?'"

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

**PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17**

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

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through <sup>1</sup>from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me <sup>1</sup>from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know <sup>1</sup>my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- <sup>1</sup>er before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil <sup>1</sup>in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right <sup>1</sup>in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born <sup>1</sup>steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my <sup>1</sup>mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth <sup>1</sup>deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom <sup>1</sup>deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur-er 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.

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

*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 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. <sup>2</sup>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! <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.

*The reading may be concluded:*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*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.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter. **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.

<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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "The Glory Of These Forty Days"

**ELW #320**

## **INVITATION TO LENT**

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.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

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

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.**

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*People may come forward to receive the ashes.*

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

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all remain sitting and the minister continues.*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

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. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.  
Let us pray.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you call your church to be ministers of reconciliation throughout the world. Inspire your church in its proclamation of the gospel and guide its ministries to build up the body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants and you declared that it is good. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the well-being of all people and raise up advocates to speak and serve on behalf of the downtrodden. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*) and support caregivers who attend to all in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you are love, and you call us to love one another. Accompany with your grace those journeying toward baptism and call us all to repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you are our life and our salvation. We give you thanks for the righteous who have died in faith. Inspire us by their example to proclaim your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**\* GREAT THANKSGIVING – to be spoken quietly**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **\*PREFACE**

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:

### **\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

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

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.*

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
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.**



## **COMMUNION**

*After those online are communed, the pastor will distribute communion to those who are assisting in worship.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond Amen.*

## **\*TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord

Jesus Christ strengthen you

and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Compassionate God,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:

may our fasting be hunger for justice;

our alms, a making of peace;

and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **\*BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

## **\*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. **Amen**

## **POSTLUDE**

Just As I Am

arr. Gordon Young

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We welcome to the Lord's Table all visitors who are eligible to receive the Sacrament in their home congregations. Lutherans believe that Christ is really present in the Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins.

Once again, we are participating in **Lutheran World Relief's "A Season of Hope" in gathering supplies for personal care kits.** This ministry project is especially critical this year as LWR reports their warehouse shelves are nearly empty. COVID has not only increased the demand for these kits, but also reduced the donations due to WELCA and other church groups not meeting across the United States. Attached to this bulletin is a list of items being collected. If you rather make a monetary donation, we are happy to do the shopping for you. Just designate your donation to "Personal Care Kits."

Due to an abundance of caution with covid restrictions, there will be **no Midweek Lenten Services** other than Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services. If you would like to engage in a Lenten Midweek discipline, you are invited to participate in the Zoom Bible Study on Thursday evenings at 7 pm. Please contact Pastor Kathy for the connect information.

**A few In Home Holy Communion kits** for February haven't been picked up. If you are no longer interested in receiving your kit, please let the office know. If you would like to receive a contactless home communion for March and are not on the list, please call the church office.

**Online Bible Study** meets Thursday nights at 7 pm using ZOOM. We are currently studying the book of Job. Contact Charles Hawk or Pastor Kathy for the information to connect with the group. Please join us!

Charts for bulletins and flowers for 2021 are now on the bulletin board. Sponsoring bulletins and flowers are a great way to honor a special event in your loved one's lives or to pay tribute to your loved ones who have gone to their forever home. Bulletins cost \$10.00 and flowers cost 12.50 per vase. (Please only two vases of flowers per week.) There are many spots open.

**The statements for 2020 are available.** In order to limit the number of hands touching the statements and offering envelopes for 2021, Eva will have statements and/or offering envelopes available at the door, if you are signed up to attend an in-person service. If you are not attending an in-person service, please call the office to make arrangements to pick-up your statement and/or offering envelopes. Consider requesting statements and/or envelopes for other members of your family.

**First Holy Communion** classes are still available for this year. The class is open to any student who is at least 10 years old and/or in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or above. Some of the classes may be held over Zoom depending on the current situation with COVID and weather conditions. Students will receive their First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday evening, April 1, 2021. **Please call the church office to register your child.** Contact Pastor Kathy with any questions.

You may now make an offering to the church through our website [www.SummerHillLutheran.org](http://www.SummerHillLutheran.org). Simply click on the online giving button on our home page and you will be directed to a secure site to make a one time or on-going offering. You may direct your offering from your checking or savings account or a credit or debit card. QR code below.



## 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.

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## 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-tur-ing 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

## Baskets of Promise

*"...satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday." Isaiah 58:10*

When emergencies like natural disasters or conflict arise, many families must flee their homes, leaving their belongings behind. When they arrive in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit allow them to wash away the dirt and sweat, with the fresh scent of soap and the softness of a towel as reminders of someone's care and concern for them in their plight.

Items may be brought to the church during the Lenten Season.

Each kit includes:

- One light-weight bath-size towel (20" X 40" to 52" X 27"), dark color recommended.
- Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars.
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging.
- One sturdy comb, (no picks or fine-toothed combs);
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

If you wish to participate, but rather have someone else do the shopping, please place your donation in an envelope on the offering plate marked "Personal Care Kits."