

Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
Ash Wednesday

*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.*

**PSALM 51:1-17** \*Kneel or stand as you are able

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

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

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

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored 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, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim 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.

**\*WELCOME HYMN**

***“Kyrie (Now The Feast)”***

**ELW 157**

**P** In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,  
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For your people here who have come to give you praise,  
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, and defend us, O God.

**C** **Amen.**

**\*GREETING**

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** *Almighty and ever-living God,*

**C** **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!**

**ANTHEM** (7:00 pm service)

***“The Power of Your Love”***

Geoff Bullock

Chancel Choir

**FIRST READING**

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

**L** *The first reading for Ash Wednesday is from the book of Joel, the second chapter.*

<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?'"

**L** *The word of the Lord.*

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

**2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

**L** *The second reading is from the book of Second Corinthians, the fifth chapter.*

<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.

<sup>6:1</sup>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.

**L** *The word of the Lord.*

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**\*GOSPEL**

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

**P** *The holy gospel according to Matthew.*

**G** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“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**

**“I Am”**

Rev. Roger Lenander

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Be Thou My Vision”**

**ELW 793**

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**INVITATION TO LENT**

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☞ *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

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

**P** *Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.  
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us  
that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life;  
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**G Amen!**

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.*

**P** *Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,*

**G that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**P** *By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,*

**G 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.*

**G Amen!**

**\*PRAYER SONG**

***“Change My Heart, O God”***

**ELW 801**

**Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Turn it toward you, loving God, and unite it in a desire to live for you alone. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain in us a willing spirit to care for the earth and all that lives on it, knowing that we are stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Let no leader put an obstacle in the way of those seeking your justice, peace, and love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let your light break forth and shine on those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Let your healing spring up quickly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guide this assembly constantly back to your word, your holy meal, and the unfailing waters of baptism. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the lives of the faithful departed who have returned to the dust and thus to you. Inspire us by their examples of holy living. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen!**

**OFFERING** (*instrumental*)

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*“Create In Me”*

**ELW 186**

**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 uphold me with your free Spirit.**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** *Merciful God,*

**C** **receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering  
of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the  
resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**\*DIALOGUE**

**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.**

**\*PREFACE**

**P** *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 pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.  
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.  
We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.*

*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.*

*For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.  
Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ*

*may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.  
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.*

#### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** *Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

**C** **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!**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** *Return to God with all your heart.  
Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.*

#### **COMMUNION**

#### **\*BLESSING**

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

**C** **Amen!**

#### **\*COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P** *Compassionate God,*

**C** **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 Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P** *May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,  
and claimed us as children of the light,  
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you  $\text{✝}$  peace.*

**R** **Amen!**

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**R** **Thanks be to God!**