

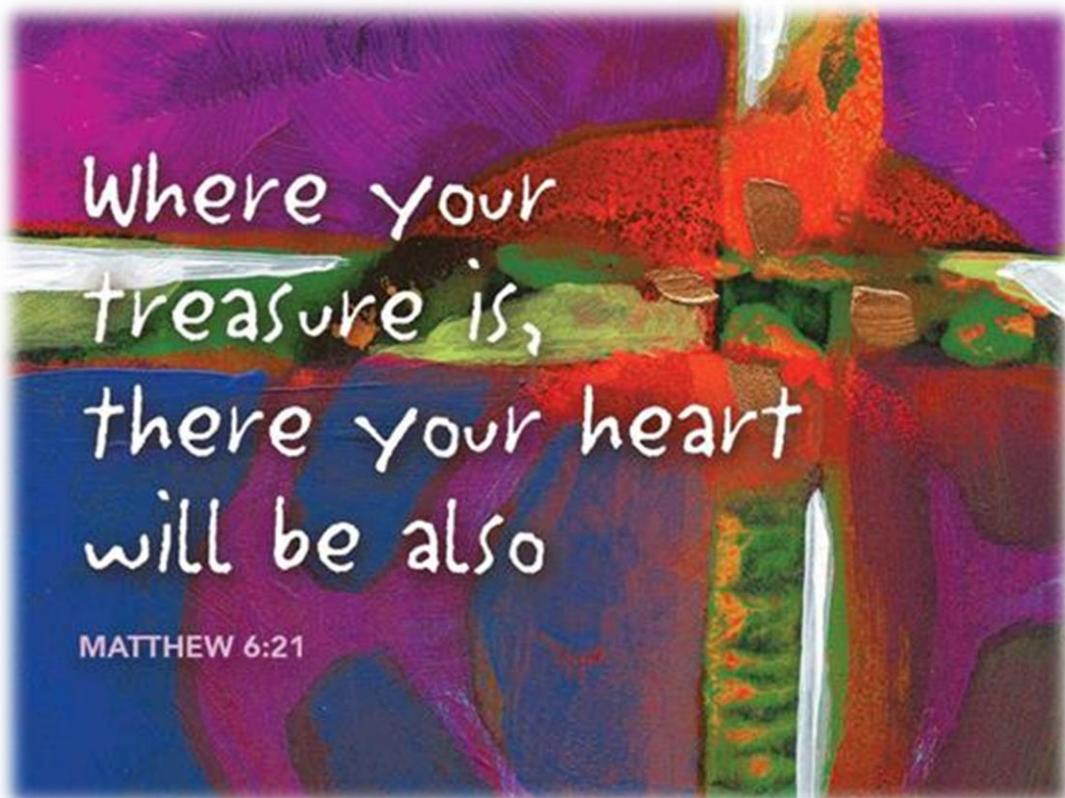


Grace
Lutheran Church

Rock Hill, South Carolina

SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR
ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 17, 2021

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

ELW 325



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

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.

A reading from the prophet Joel.

¹Blow 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 - ²a 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. ¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend 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. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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. ¹⁷Between 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

Psalms 51:1-17

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

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**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.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

ELW 324



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

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

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 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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. **Amen.**

HYMN

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

ELW 752



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, refresh the hearts of your faithful people across all lands and generations. Rescue your church from affliction, hardship, or persecution. Remove all obstacles standing in the way of our witness to your grace, mercy, and everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Renewing God, bless all wilderness places and all inhabitants of the land. Protect untouched ecosystems, satisfy parched places, and strengthen roots and seeds beneath the soil that await their time to flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restoring God, rebuild and repair nations ravaged by war or famine. Humble the hearts of governments and authorities, that they loose the bonds of injustice and liberate the oppressed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Generous God, provide bread for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and protection for the vulnerable. Listen to the cries of all who are abused, imprisoned, and who suffer due to pain, anxiety, or illness, especially Wayne, Scott, Scott, Steven, Jackie, Vicky, Julie, Bob, Neal, Margaret, Kay, Yvonne, Eddie, John, Bea, Jack, Eric, Mary, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Theresa, Earl, Barbara, Steven, Kathy, and Ted. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, renew our practices of devotion and discipleship. Make us generous in giving, steadfast in prayer, and attentive to your grace amid many distractions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Redeeming God, you raise us from the dust of death and mark us with the cross of salvation. Strengthen us by the faithfulness of the saints. Restore our joy and lead us by your bountiful grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

LORD'S PRAYER

We unite our voices in this time, joining in the prayer that our Lord taught us:

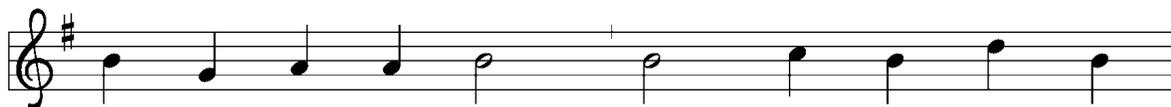
Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en,
hal - low - ed be thy name; thy king - dom come; thy
will be done on earth as it is in heav - en.
Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and for -
give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who
tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to temp -
ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
All: For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er - more. A - men.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

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