



**The First Day of Lent**

*Ash Wednesday*

**February 17, 2021**

*in the 168<sup>th</sup> Year of the Parish*

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

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**Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”**

*We gather in silence this day*

**THE GREETING**

**P** The Lord be with you

**C** And also with you

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** 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.

**C** Amen

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS**

*On this day we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

**THE FIRST LESSON..... Isaiah 58:1-12**

1 Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

3 “Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

4 Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

9Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.  
If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

11The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

12Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 51:1-17**

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

**2Wash 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.

**4Against 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.

**6Indeed, 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.

**8Let 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.

**10Create 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.

**12Restore 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.

**14Rescue 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.

**16For 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.**

**THE SECOND LESSON.....2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

20bWe entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6:1As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For 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! 3We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness,

holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

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

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. 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.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

**HYMN**

*Out of the Depths I Cry to You*

## Out of the Depths I Cry to You



1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Fa - ther,  
 2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our  
 3 It is in God that we shall hope, and not in  
 4 My soul is wait - ing for the Lord as one who



hear me call - ing. In - cline your ear to my dis - tress  
 lives with fa - vor. All our good works are done in vain  
 our own mer - it. We rest our fears in his good Word  
 longs for morn - ing; no watch - er waits with great - er hope



in spite of my re - bel - ling. Do not re - gard  
 with - out our Lord and Sav - ior. We praise the God  
 and trust his Ho - ly Spir - it. His prom - ise keeps  
 than I for his re - turn - ing. I hope as Is -



my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace my spir -  
 who gives us faith and saves us from the grip  
 us strong and sure; we trust the ho - ly sig -  
 rael in the Lord; he sends re - demp - tion through



it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.  
 of death; our lives are in his keep - ing.  
 na - ture in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.  
 his Word. We praise him for his mer - cy.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943  
 Music: AUSTIEFFER NOT, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

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## INVITATION TO LENT

P 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

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

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 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** Lord in your mercy/**Hear our prayer.**

### **OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

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**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE BLESSING**

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

**C** Amen.

### **HYMN**

*Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*

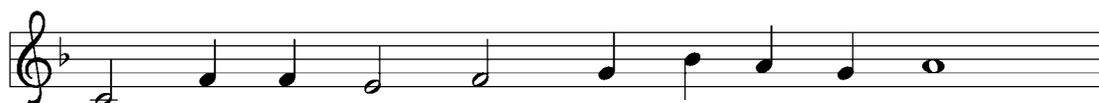
## Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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## DISMISSAL

P 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.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*We leave in silence on this day.*

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**Prayer List:** Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Esteban Mazer, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Cheryl Williams, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield. Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer.

## LEADING US IN WORSHIP

**LECTOR** Vicki Haussmann  
**CANTOR/SONG LEADER** Deb Buckman  
**ORGANIST** Sam Robinson

**By action of our Congregational Council, Sunday in-person worship and Sunday Church School will resume February 21 (Worship at 8:00 am and 10:30 am; Church School at 9:15 am). Please follow all CDC and St. Mark protocols which include mask-wearing and social distancing. Mid-week Lenten Services (Wednesdays in Lent, 12:15-12:45 pm) are virtual (video only) and may be viewed on our web site and Facebook page. Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office (570-323-4619).**

