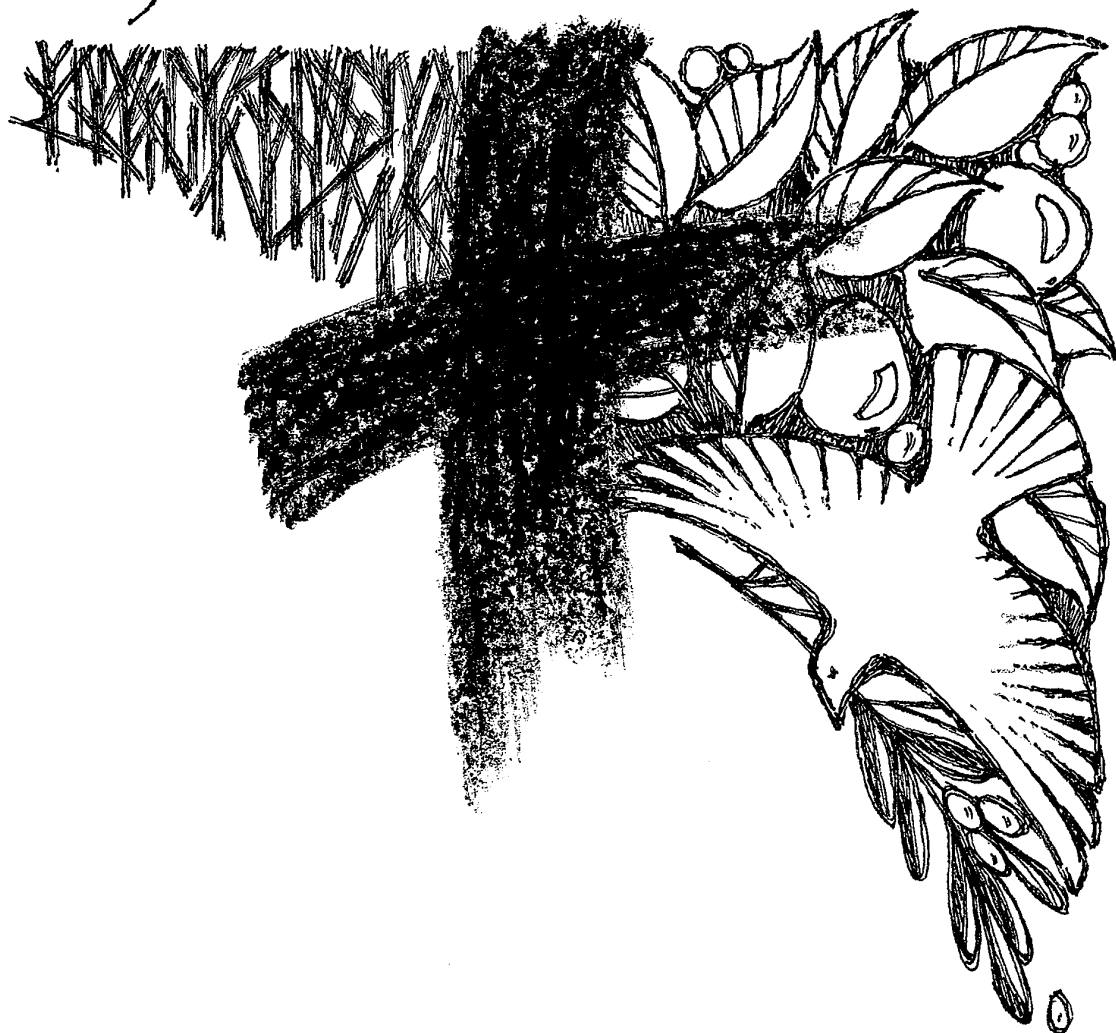


HAVE MERCY ON ME O GOD
ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST
LOVE BLOT OUT MY TRANSGRESSIONS
WASH ME THOROUGHLY AND CLEANSE
ME FROM MY SIN + RESTORE TO ME
THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION PSALM 51:1,2,12



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

12:00 P.M. & 6:15 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer that begins the forty-day season of Lent. During Lent we prepare for the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. On Ash Wednesday we confess our sin in a litany of penitence.

We receive the sign of ashes as an external mark of our mortality. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance and mourning. We recall God's words to Adam and Eve following their disobedience: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." The use of ashes also calls to mind the words of the funeral liturgy, "ashes to ashes, dust to dust." By honestly facing our need for forgiveness and healing, we turn to the springtime of God's mercy and grace.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — "Song of Peace"

Jean Langlais

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 321

"Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"

***Greeting**

☞ The Lord be with you.

☛ And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all. 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.

Imposition of Ashes

All who desire to receive ashes on their foreheads may come forward.

As the sign of the cross is made with ashes, the words “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” are spoken as a reminder of our brokenness before God.

After receiving ashes, you may return to your seat.

When all have received ashes, the liturgy 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, our Savior,

C bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Psalmody — Psalm 51:1-15



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

²**Wash me through and through ¹ from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹ from my sin.**

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

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹ in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right ¹ 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 pur- | er 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 spir- | it within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**
- ¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.
- ¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**
- ¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

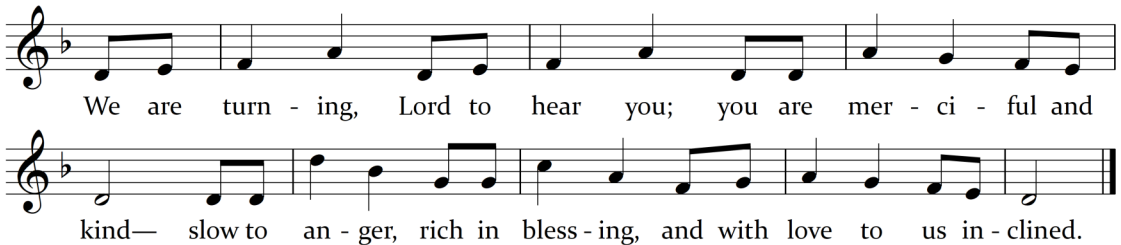
First Reading — 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

After the reading:

- ☐ The word of the Lord.
- ☒ Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

KAS DZIEDAJA



We are turn - ing, Lord to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and
kind— slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

***Gospel — Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

℟ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“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. ²So 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. ⁵And 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.

¹⁶And 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. ¹⁹Do 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.”

℟ The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ACS No. 1043

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

Invitation to Lent

*Confession of Sin

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who brings us safely through the sea,
who gives us water from the rock,
who leads us into the land of milk and honey.
- C** Amen.
- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
- C** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.
- P** For self-centered living,
and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:
- C** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.
- P** For longing to have what is not ours,
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:
- C** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.
- P** For misuse of human relationships,
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:
- C** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.
- P** For jealousies that divide families and nations,
and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:
- C** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.
- P** For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God,
and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:
- C** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.
- P** For hurtful words that condemn,
and for angry deeds that harm:
- C** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

- P** For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,
 and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:
G **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,**
have mercy on us.
- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
 and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit,
 God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of
 the one who called us out of hiding into his marvelous truth. As a called
 and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I
 therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name
 of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- G** **Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

- L** Lord, in your mercy,
G **hear our prayer.**

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

(12:00) "Give Me Jesus"

Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan

Elizabeth Bade

(6:15) "All Things of Dust to Dust Return"

John Ferguson

*All things of dust to dust return on earth and in the sky. The hottest, brightest
 suns that burn in time grow dim and die. The fish that leap, the birds that soar,
 the newborn young that play, the leaves that fill the forest floor revert to dust
 and clay. Lord, mark with dust and ash so I may comprehend that every moment
 here and now links me to that same end. I share with all that breathe and burn,
 that flare and fade and tire yet by their waning light discern your own undying
 fire. Lord, mark upon my brow this sign: a stark and barren cross reminding me
 that though divine you know my pain and loss, and at the touch of dust and ash
 awake my heart to view how death itself is but a flash that dies away in you.*

– Thomas H. Troeger

St. John's Chorale

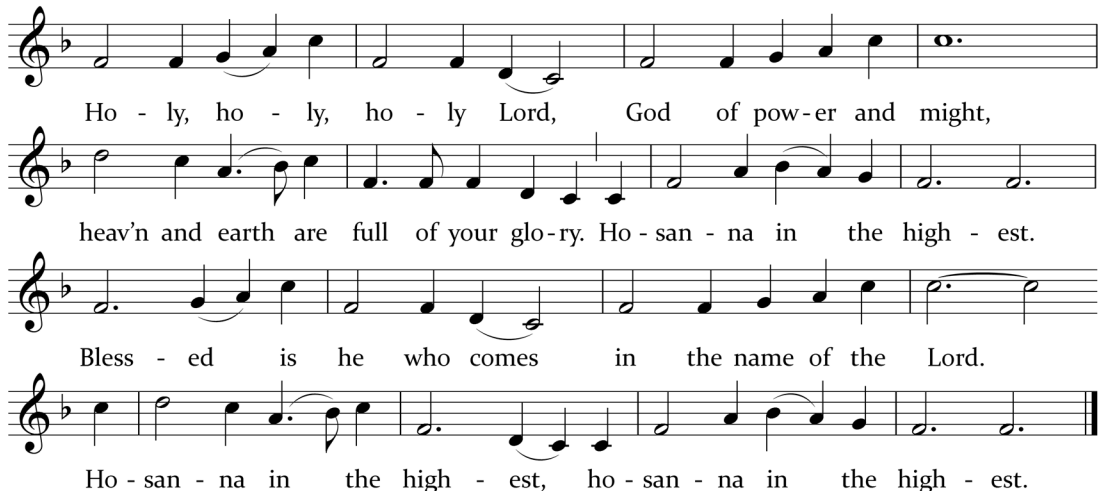
*Offering Prayer

- L** Let us pray.
- C** Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have
given us to share, that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

- 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.
- P** It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

All God's children are welcome at the table.

*Communion will be received standing at stations in the front of sanctuary;
ushers will direct you forward. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the center.*

After you have been served the bread you will be offered wine or grape juice.

The grape juice is white and is located in the center of the tray.

***If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know,
and communion will be brought to you.***

Music During Communion

Anthem — “Lamb of God”

(12:00) Organ setting arr. G. Winston Cassler

(6:15) Choral setting by F. Melius Christiansen

*Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross didst suffer, patient still and lowly,
thyself to scorn didst offer; our sins by thee were taken, or hope had us forsaken:
Have mercy on us, O Jesu!*

– Nikolaus Decius

Hymn — ELW No. 480

“O Bread of Life from Heaven”

*Post-Communion Blessing

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*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, rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ▮ Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “We Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ” BWV 623

J. S. Bach



OLIVE WOOD HEARTS FOR LENT

We invite each household to take an olive wood heart for this season of Lent and use it for prayer and reflection. These hearts were created by Palestinian artisans in memory of the thousands of children who have already been killed in the ongoing war in Gaza. Through personal connections in the Young Adults in Global Mission program, Lutheran Christians in the United States have organized to share these hearts, both to financially support Palestinian artisans during this time, as well as to invite Christians in this country to pray in solidarity with the thousands of people who have been killed, wounded, displaced, and traumatized by the war. Find these hearts and more information near the sanctuary doors.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	(12:00) Kristin Partlo (6:15) Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(12:00) Rev. Mark Rydberg (6:15) Nancy Ordahl Knoch
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantor	(12:00) Elizabeth Bade
Choir	(6:15) St. John's Chorale
Ushers	(12:00) Jon McBroom, Cindy McBroom, Dan Franklin, Don Sahling, Dean Schoeb (6:15) Alison Kavanaugh, Jon Kavanaugh, Christy Hall-Holt, Olaf Hall-Holt

LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: *IMAGES OF GOD*

"Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness.' " —Genesis 1:26

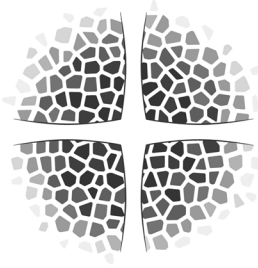
In the creation story, we hear what some have called the *original blessing*—that we are made in the image of God. But what does it mean to be made in the image of God, especially when the Bible has so many different images of God? In the back of our purple hymnal *All Creation Sings* there is robust list of all different images of God found in scripture.

Among these many images used in Scripture to describe God—parent, lawgiver, dove, monster-slayer, midwife, vine-grower, bear—which ones most help you know that you are God's beloved, created in God's image, in *imago Dei*? How might different images of God help others know that they, too, are included in this love?

This year, five St. John's members (both new and long-time members) have been invited to pick an image of God from scripture to reflect on and connect to their story of faith.

Lenten Vespers—taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy—will take place each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. from February 21 through March 20.

- February 21: Genevieve Quarberg
- February 28: Paul Gleason
- March 6: Green Bouzard
- March 13: Dan Dimick



St. John's
ELCA • NORTHFIELD • MN

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Pam Fickenschner, *Senior Pastor*
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*
Green Bouzard, *Jubilate Choir Director*
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Steve Harner, *Facility Manager*
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*
Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist*
Kristin Partlo, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*
David Sims and Will Fecko, *Directors of Rejoice Ringers*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.

*St. John's Lutheran Church stands on the
ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation.
We respect and are grateful for the generations of native people who have cared for this land.*