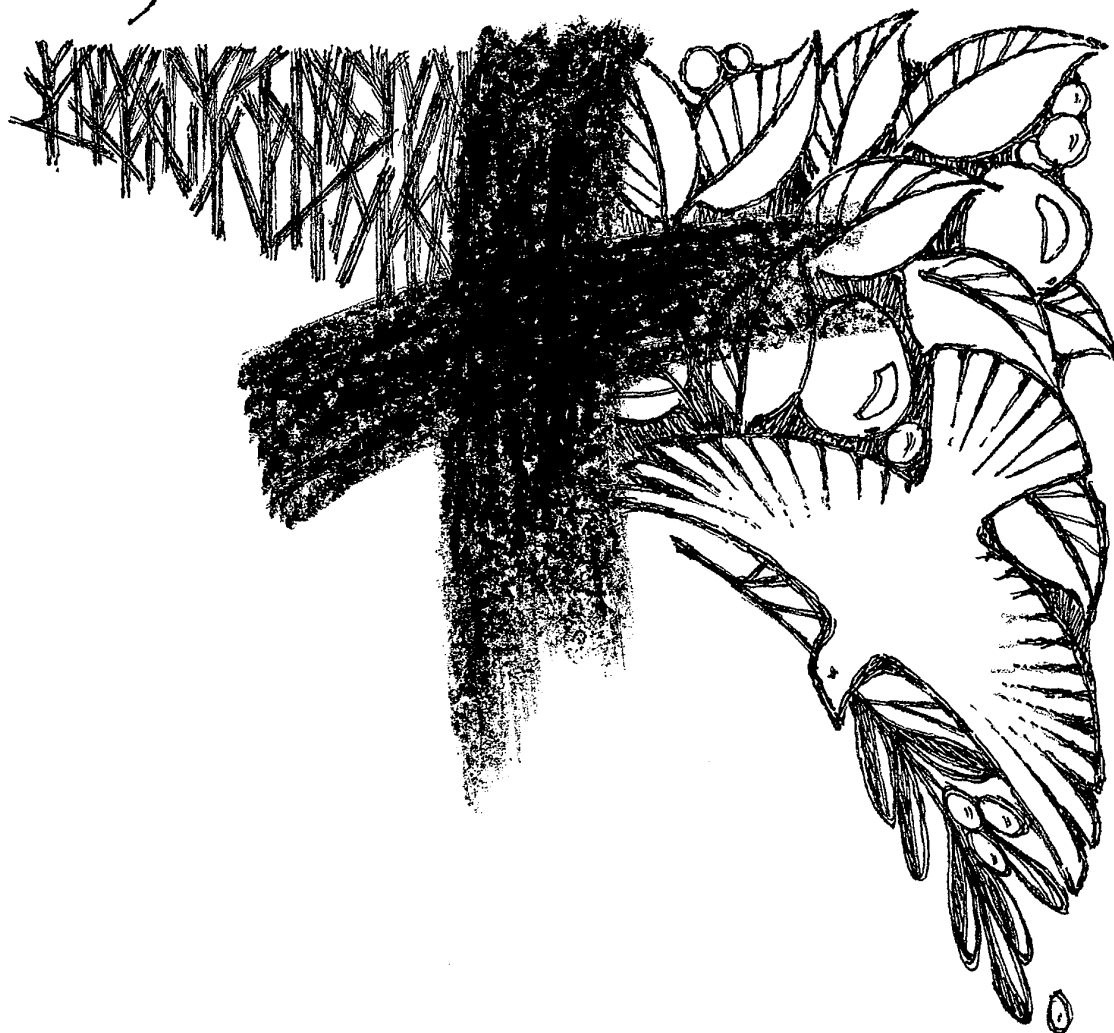


HAVE MERCY ON ME O GOD
ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST
LOVE BLOT OUT MY TRANSGRESSIONS
WASH ME THOROUGHLY AND CLEANSE
ME FROM MY SIN + RESTORE TO ME
THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION PSALM 51:1,2,12



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

12:00 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. 326

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

***Greeting**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

P Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of 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

First Reading — Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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?'"

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 51 "Have Mercy, Lord"

DUNDEE

Have mer - cy, Lord, ac - cord - ing to the mea - sure of your love;
The fail - ings of my deeds and thoughts are ev - er in my sight;
A clean and up - right heart, O Lord, ex - change for mine of stone;

blot out my sin, and from my heart all wick - ed - ness re - move.
re - lease me from the path of death, and set my course a - right.
your Ho - ly Spir - it meld with mine, and leave me not a - lone.

Psalm paraphrase: Michael Morgan © 1999, *Psalter for Christian Worship*

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

^{20b}We 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.

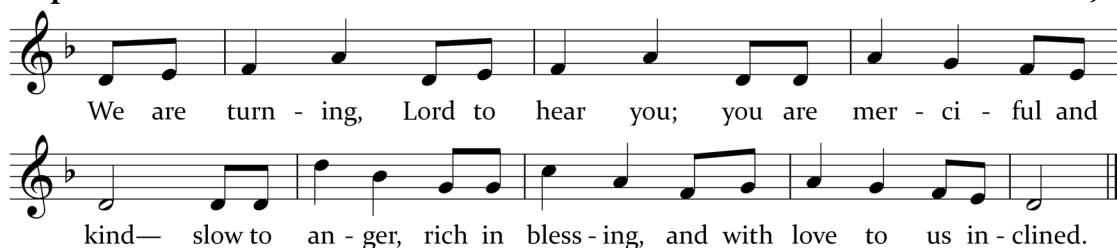
^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s 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.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

KAS DZIEDĀJA



*Gospel — Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

G 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. 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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 321

“Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”

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:
- C** **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.
- C** **Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

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

*Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **G** And also with you.

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

Thomas Keesecker

Offering Hymn — "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

FRANCKE



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal -
va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

G 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.

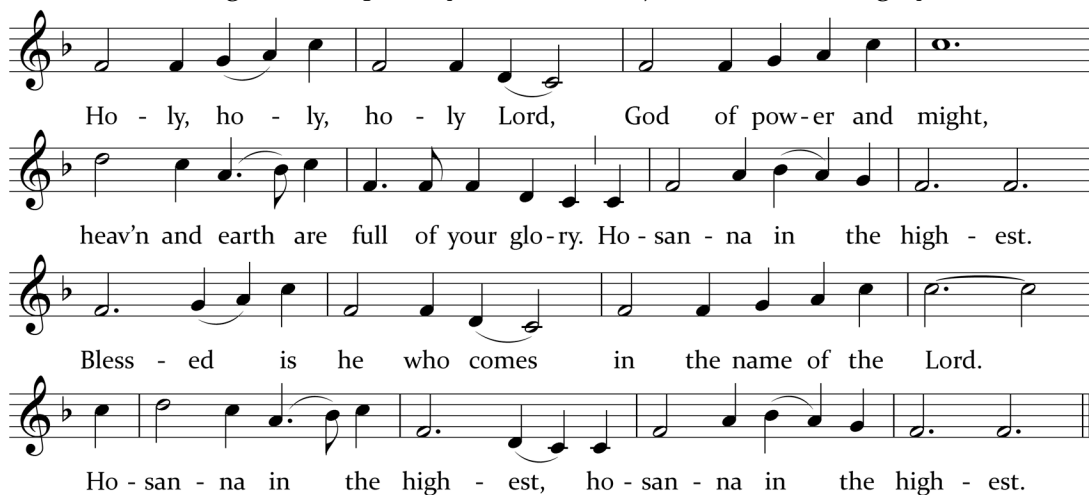
P Lift up your hearts.

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

Solo — “Lamb of God”

F. Melius Christiansen
arr. G. Winston Cassler

*Post-Communion Blessing

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

*Blessing

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

☑ Amen.

*Sending Hymn — ELW No. 793

“Be Thou My Vision”

*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



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Ushers	Jon McBroom, Cindy McBroom, Dan Franklin, Dean Schoeb

LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: WATERY WORDS

The Season of Lent is traditionally a time of baptismal preparation and baptismal renewal. We recommit to spiritual practices that remind us of our need for God and each other during these six weeks as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection.

This year we have invited five members of St. John's to speak around the themes of water, bringing together a watery word or Scripture verse with their own experience.

Lenten Vespers—taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy—will take place each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. from March 1 through March 29.

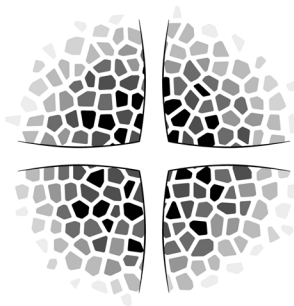
- March 1: David Legvold
- March 8: David Zdenek
- March 15: Patsy Ophaug
- March 22: Ashley Gallagher
- March 29: Kathy Shea

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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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*
Emmanuel Kaghondi, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Children's Music Director and Early Childhood Specialist*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

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