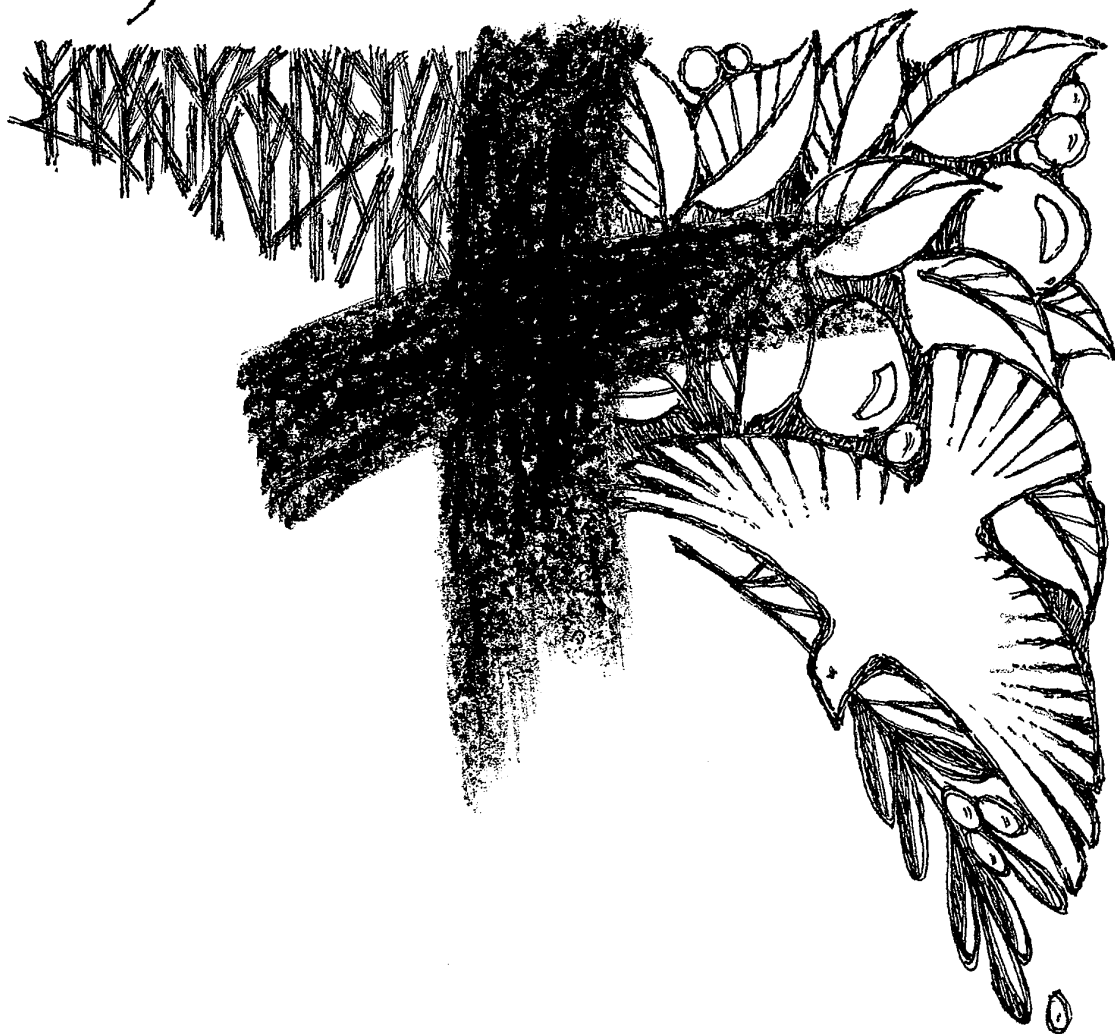


HAVE MERCY ON ME O GOD
ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST
LOVE BLOT OUT MY TRANSGRESSIONS
WASH ME THOROUGHLY AND CLEANSE
ME FROM MY SIN + RESTORE TO ME
THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION PSALM 51:1,2,12



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

12:00 P.M. AND 6:30 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

The assembly gathers in silence.

*Greeting

- ☐ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

- ☐ Let us pray.
Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 58:1-12

Pew Bible, page 600

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

Imposition of Ashes

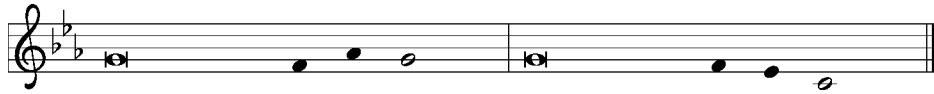
During the singing of the psalm, all who desire to receive ashes on their foreheads may come forward.

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.

Psalmody — Psalm 51:1-17

*Sung in alternation between cantors and assembly.
Cantor begins. All singing the final two verses.*



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

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

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

**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.**

Indeed, I was born ¹ steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹ mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth ¹ deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ¹ deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹ shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- ¹ er than snow.

**Let me hear ¹ joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken ¹ may rejoice.**

Hide your face ¹ from my sins,
and blot out ¹ all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean ¹ heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- ¹ it within me.**

Cast me not away ¹ from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- ¹ it from me.

**Restore to me the joy of ¹ your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- ¹ tiful Spirit.**

Let me teach your ways ¹ to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- ¹ stored to you.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of ¹ my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing ¹ of your righteousness.**

O Lord, o- ¹ pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- ¹ claim your praise.

**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or ¹ I would give it.
You are not pleased ¹ with burnt offering.**

**The sacrifice of God is a ¹ troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will ¹ not despise.**

When all have received ashes, the liturgy continues.

- ☐ 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.**

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

Pew Bible, page 940

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

***Gospel** — Matthew 6:1, 16-21

Pew Bible, page 787

Before the reading:

- ☐ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.
- ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

- ☐ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — No. (did 321 in 2017)

Invitation to Lent

***Confession of Sin**

- ☐ 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.
- ☑ **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

C **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.

- ¶ 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 darkness into his marvelous light.
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.
- ☩ Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

- ℒ Lord, in your mercy,
☩ hear our prayer.

Offering

Music at the Offering

(12:00) "Give Me Jesus"

Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan

Elizabeth Bade, soprano

(6:30) "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: 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

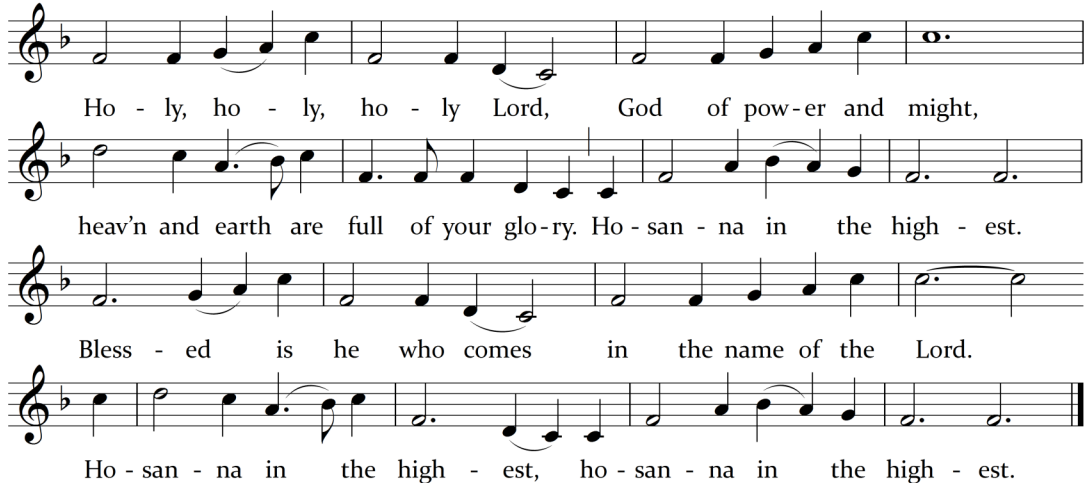
*Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray.
- Ⓒ **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

- Ⓐ The Lord be with you.
- Ⓒ **And also with you.**
- Ⓐ Lift up your hearts.
- Ⓒ **We lift them to the Lord.**
- Ⓐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- Ⓒ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- Ⓐ 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** — page 154, *front of hymnal, left-hand column*

*All God's children are welcome at the table. Communion will be received standing at the front of the sanctuary; ushers will direct you forward. (12:00) Communion will be served by intinction. Please dip your wafer in the cup. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the middle. (6:30) 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
(6:30) Choral setting by F. Melius Christiansen

Hymn — 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.**

The assembly departs in silence.

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantors	Elizabeth Bade, Nathan Proctor
Choir	(6:30) St. John's Chorale
Ushers	(12:00) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug (6:30) Brian Boyum, Nicholas Boehning, Scott Boehning, Dale Gehring, Reed Hagberg

LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

In the Gospel of John, which is where many of our Lenten Gospels come from on Sundays, testimony plays a crucial role. Very often people hear about Jesus and Jesus' deeds not directly from him, but from other people. Even some of the apostles are healed "second-hand" by one person witnessing to another.

It is clear that John did not consider his Gospel to be the final word on Jesus' action in our world either. He concludes the Gospel this way: *"This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."*

Today we are still part of writing the "many books" that contain the works of Jesus. While many Christians are uncomfortable talking about their faith, personal experience of God's work in our lives is the core of faith. Our own faith is strengthened when someone we know well experiences God's grace and healing.

This year five St. John's members have been invited to share their story of God at work in their life. We are so grateful to these individuals for their courage in sharing their story with us, and we are excited to see how their example helps all of us think more deeply about our experience of Jesus.

Lenten Vespers - taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy - will take place each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. from March 4 through April 1.

- March 4: Michelle Kramer-Prevost
- March 11: Erik Lindell
- March 18: Pam Groves-Gaggioli
- March 25: Emmanuel Kaghondi
- April 1: Brian Evenson

Wednesday, March 4

- 5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m. Soup Supper served in St. John's Hall
6:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m. Mini organ recital by visiting organist
Giacomo Benedetti from Florence, Italy
6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship service

Worship for Holy Week and Easter

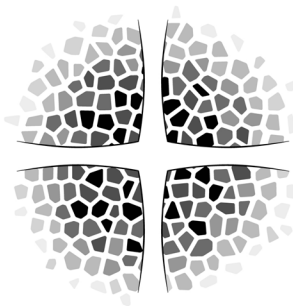
Palm Sunday, April 5
Procession with Palms and
Holy Communion
8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 9
Holy Communion
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 10
Liturgy of Good Friday
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 11
The Great Vigil of Easter 8:00 p.m.
Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College

Celebration of the Resurrection, Sunday, April 12
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.
Holy Communion at all services
Easter Breakfast from
8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
9:30 service broadcast
on KYMN 1080 AM / 95.1 FM



St. John's

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Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*
Carol Benson, *Director of Jubilate Choir*
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager*
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*
Christy Hall-Holt, *Welcome Ministry Coordinator*
Emmanuel Kaghondi, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Director of Alleluia Choir*
Zachery Pelletier, *Director of Rejoice Rings*
Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, *Security and Custodial Assistants*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*
Bernie Renander, *Finance Manager*

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