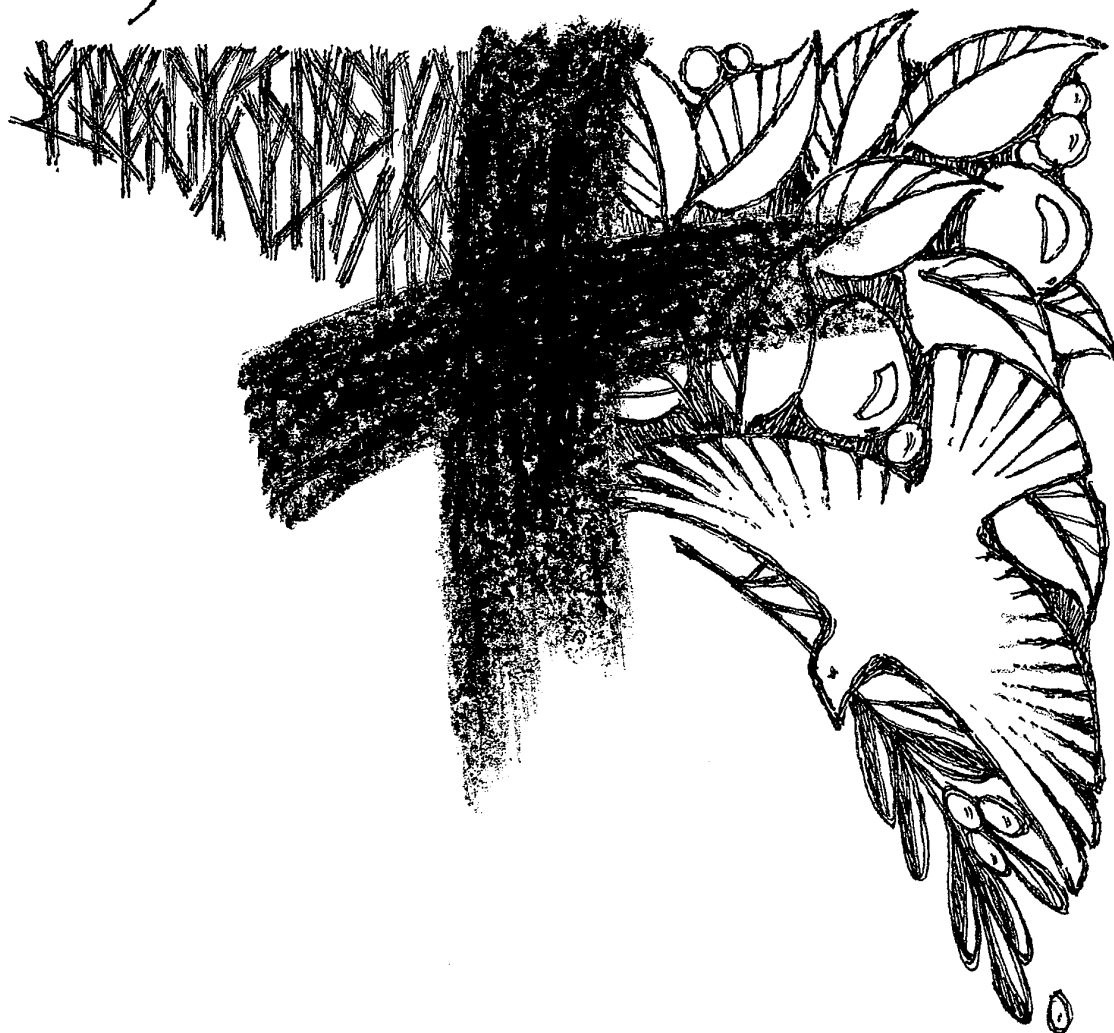


HAVE MERCY ON ME O GOD  
ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST  
LOVE BLOT OUT MY TRANSGRESSIONS  
WASH ME THOROUGHLY AND CLEANSE  
ME FROM MY SIN + RESTORE TO ME  
THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION PSALM 51:1,2,12



# ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 2, 2022

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.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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# 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**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** 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

## First Reading — Isaiah 58:1-12

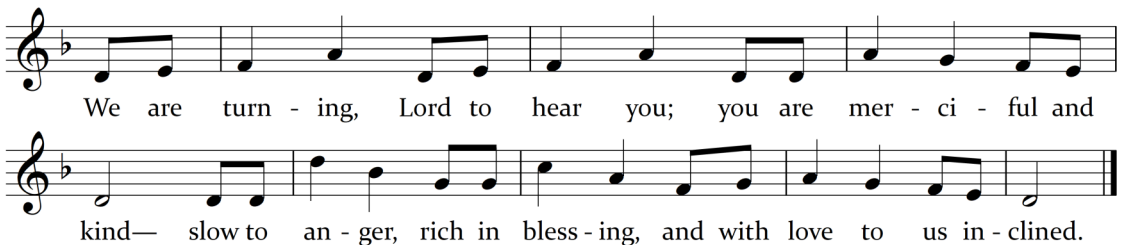
<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. <sup>3</sup>"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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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? <sup>6</sup>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? <sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>Then 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. <sup>9</sup>Then 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, <sup>10</sup>if 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. <sup>11</sup>The 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. <sup>12</sup>Your 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.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## \*Gospel Acclamation

KAS DZIEDĄJA



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**

**ℙ** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**☩ Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>But 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.

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so 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. <sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**ℙ** The Gospel of the Lord.

**☩ Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily**

Pastor Jonathan Davis

## **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**


**Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 328**

“Restore in Us, O God”

**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,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

### **Offering of Our Gifts**

*Music at the Offering:*

(12:00) “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

(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*

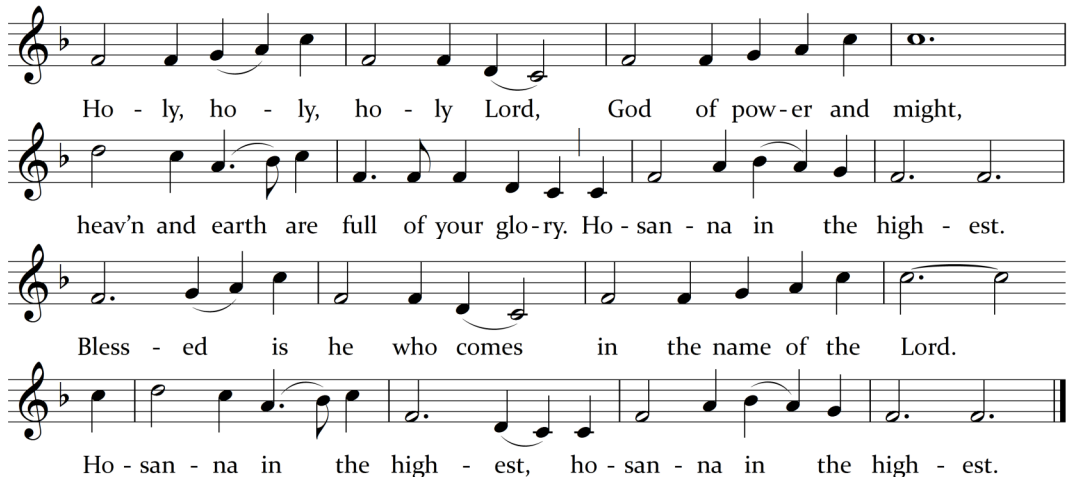
## \*Offering Prayer

- 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

### \*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 — Psalm 51, “O Dearest Friend”**

LONDONDERRY AIR



O dear-est Friend, my near-est and most faith-ful Friend, do not dis-card me  
Cre-ate in me a heart as clean as new-est born, a heart, my God, that  
though I grieve you much. I look for you at ev-'ry cliff-walled  
beats for you a-lone; make it a tem-ple your free Spir-it  
trail's end, in crowds and lone-ly rooms, to feel your touch.  
would a-dorn, with liv-ing flesh re-place my heart of stone.  
I mourn the vows of love I made but have not kept, I call you from a heart  
Re-store to me the joy of your sal-va-tion, re-cap-ture, oh, the thrill  
you made your own. Re-mem-ber me as one who in the Gar-den slept  
of our first love, se-cre-ly hold me, mold me your cre-a-tion,  
while you were on your way to earn my fade-less crown.  
de-light me yet a-gain with such dis-arm-ing love.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda © 1987 Concordia Publishing House; Music: Irish tune

**\*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 — on LONDONDERRY AIR**

Robert Lind

## **SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:**

Presiding	Kristin Partlo
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(12:00) Mark Rydberg (6:15) Ralph and Marcia Yernberg
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(6:15) St. John's Chorale
Ushers	(12:00) Jon and Cindy McBroom, Dan Franklin, Don Sahling (6:15) Bruce Rickert, Mark Polzin, Rob Nutt

### **LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: *ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW***

*"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' " —Revelation 21:5*

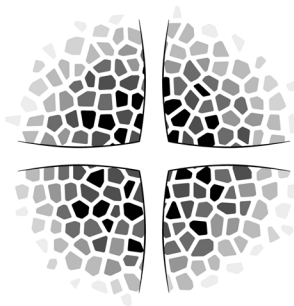
As we cross the 2-year mark of COVID being part of our everyday lives, we are invited to reflect on what we have been learning about ourselves during this time. Have you discovered anything new about yourself? What new way of life is God calling us into as individuals and as the Church? St. John's is not the same congregation as it was in 2020—we have new members who have found us and joined the church during this time of COVID (a number of whom are also now serving on boards!), we have a broader worshipping community with people from all over the country joining in, and we have rhythms and new relationships within our Church life together.

Scripture promises us that God is always at work doing a new thing within us and among us for the sake of the world. A shoot grows out of the stump of Jesse, a pathway is made in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. How are you being made new in this season, by the grace of God?

Our theme for Lenten Wednesdays this year is *Always Being Made New*. This year, five St. John's members (both new and long-time members) have been invited to share their story: how they found their way to St. John's and how God has been making all things new 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 how we all are being made new in this season.

Lenten Vespers—taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy—will take place each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. from March 9 through April 6.

- March 9: Rod Christensen
- March 16: Terrence Hassanally
- March 23: Pippa Simpson-Younger
- March 30: Jo Franklin
- April 6: Michael Mandsager



St. John's  
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[www.stjohnsnorthfield.org](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org)

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*  
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*  
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*  
Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*  
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance 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 Ringers*  
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

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