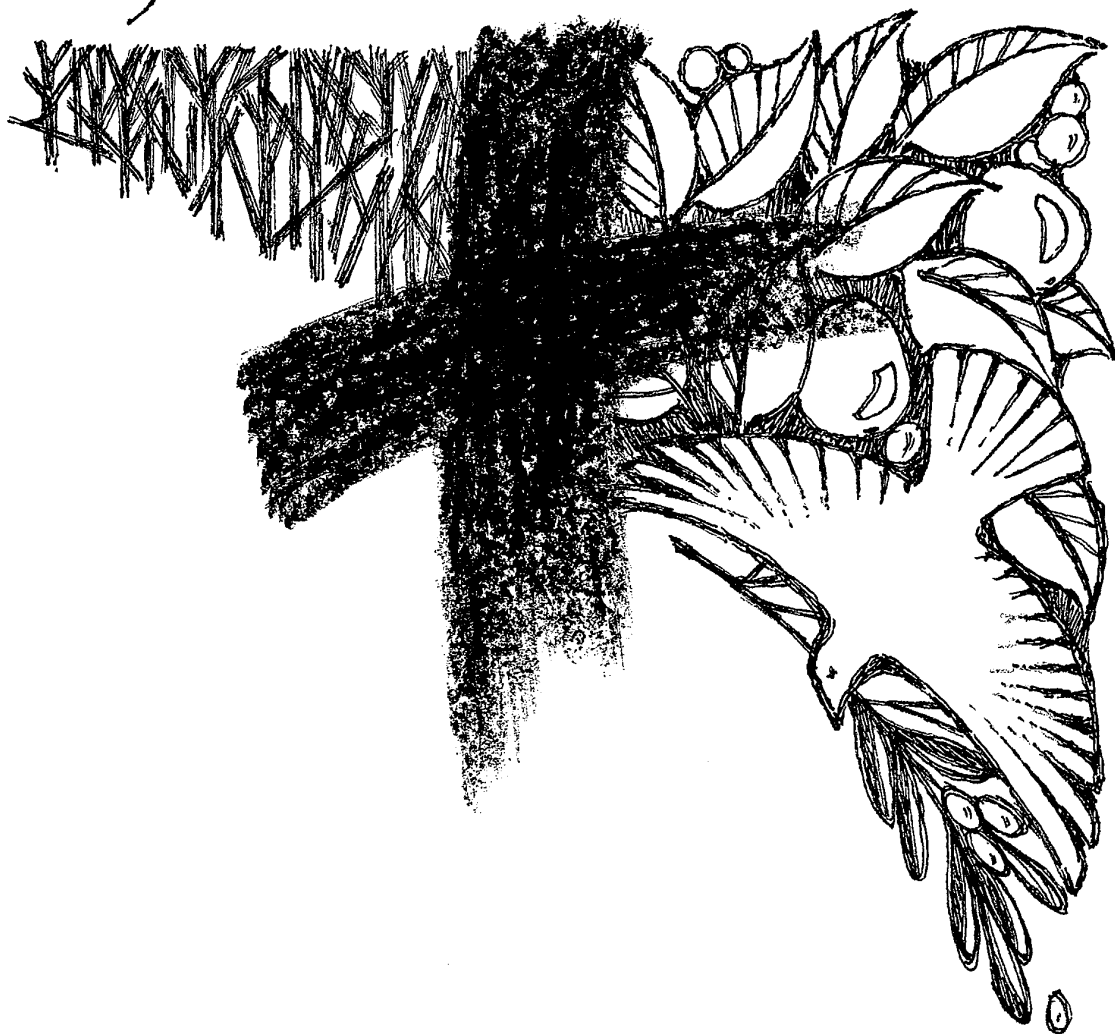


HAVE MERCY ON ME O GOD
ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST
LOVE BLOT OUT MY TRANSGRESSIONS
WASH ME THOROUGHLY AND CLEANSE
ME FROM MY SIN + RESTORE TO ME
THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION PSALM 51:1,2,12



ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 5, 2025

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**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

- ☐ 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. ☩ 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.

- ☐ 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.**

HEARING GOD’S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout 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. ²Yet 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. ⁴Look, 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. ⁵Is 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? ⁶Is 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? ⁷Is 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

KAS DZIEDĀJA

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 6th 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. 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 — ACS No. 920

“All Things of Dust to Dust Return”

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 Bread of Life from Heaven”

G. Winston Cassler

(6:15) “A Prayer of Compassion”

Gwyneth Walker

Lead me, Lord, lead me in the paths of peace. Make your way plain before my eyes.

For it is you, Lord, you and you alone, who can make me to dwell in safety.

*Lead me always to listen. Teach me to live with compassion, that when I come
to a place of rest only by your grace, and not by my merit, no praise be mine,
but let me keep a heart that still can feel, and eyes that still can weep.*

*Oh, my brother, oh, my sister, all who live in peril for you, let me keep
a heart that still can feel and eyes that still can weep.*

– Psalm 4:8 and 5:8, John Greenleaf Whittier

St. John’s Chorale

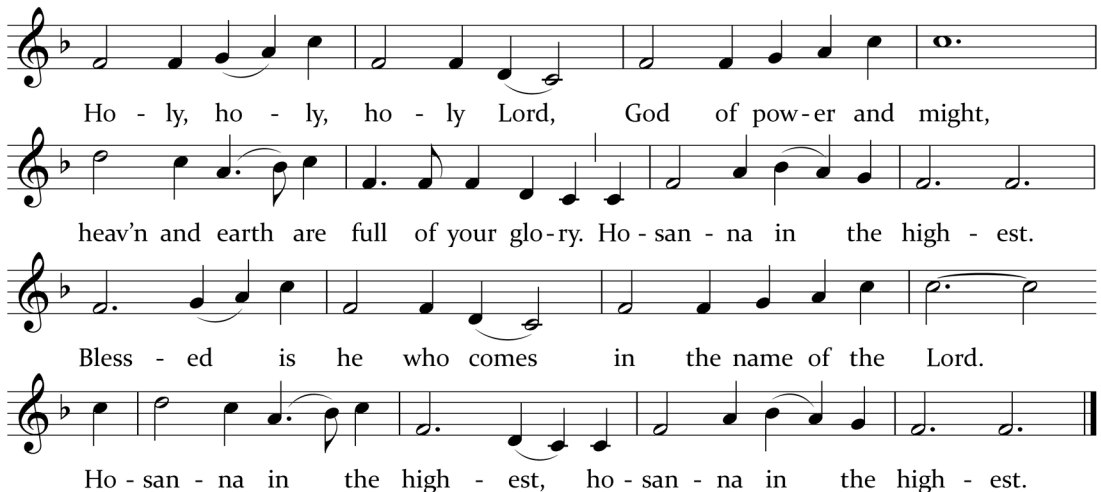
*Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray.
- Ⓑ **Holy God, you abide with your creation and in Jesus Christ you gather us at your table. As you stayed with your disciples for an evening meal, so now stay with us. As we receive these gifts of bread and wine, open our hearts to share what we have received, the abiding love of Jesus, our Savior. 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.

*Eucharistic Prayer

- ☐ Our hearts burn within us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- ☐ Like a mother hen, hold us close . . . into our deepest night, come, Lord Jesus.
- ☑ **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- ☐ Come, Holy Spirit, make here . . . in rest for the weary, come, Holy Spirit.
- ☑ **Come, Holy Spirit.**

*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



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	Susanne Smith
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(6:15) St. John's Chorale
Communion Service	Angie Gehring
Ushers	(12:00) Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Jim Sharrow, Eric Sponheim (6:15) Bob Nyvall, Todd Menssen, Mark Rydberg

LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: *WORDS OF FAITH*

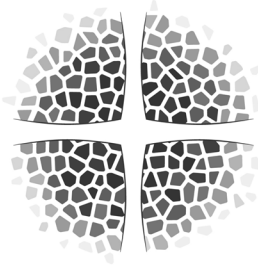
"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

– Isaiah 55:11

The Word of God has an incredible capacity to speak to us again and again, to work on us over time and to speak into different moments of our lives. For this year's Lenten Wednesdays, our speakers have been asked to tell us about a Bible text, hymn text, or worship experience that has led them deeper into their faith.

Lenten Vespers—taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy—will take place each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. from March 12 through April 8.

- March 12: David Sims
- March 19: Julie Zdenek
- March 26: Brett Norgaard
- April 2: Nancy Simpson-Younger
- April 9: Christine Engstrom



St. John's

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Pam Fickenscher, *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*
Arturo Rosas, *Custodial Associate*
David Sims, *Director 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.*