

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Gathering

Greeting:

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. The Lord be with you. **And also with you.***

Let us pray, (a brief silence is kept) Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of 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.

Hymn: "Out of the Depths I Cry to You" #600

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Out of the depths I cry to you;
O Lord God, hear me calling.
Incline your ear to my distress
in spite of my rebelling.
Do not regard my sinful deeds.
Send me the grace my spirit needs;
without it I am nothing. | 2. All things you send are full of grace;
you crown our lives with favor.
All our good works are done in vain
without our Lord and Savior.
We praise you for the gift of faith;
you save us from the grip of death;
our lives are in your keeping. |
| 3. In you alone, O God, we hope,
and not in our own merit.
We rest our fears in your good Word
and trust your Holy Spirit.
Your promise keeps us strong and sure;
we trust the cross, your signature,
inscribed upon our temples. | 4. My soul is waiting for you, Lord,
as one who longs for morning;
no watcher waits with greater hope
than I for you returning.
I hope as Israel in the Lord,
who sends redemption through the Word.
Praise God for grace and mercy. |

Text & Music: Martin Luther. ©1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission under One License #A-710041

Word *God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.*

Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow 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—a 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. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend 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. Who 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather 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. Between 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?'"

Psalm 51:1-17

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

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

For I know my offenses, **and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; **so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

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

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

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; **wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.**

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

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

Create in me a clean heart, O God, **and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence, **and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation **and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Let me teach your ways to offenders, **and sinners shall be restored to you.**

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

O Lord, open my lips, **and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

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

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

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For 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!

Gospel Acclamation Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Gospel: Mark 6:1-6, 16-21 (response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord**)

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." ¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John,

knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.

*(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)*

Message *The Most Important Commandments*

Hymn: "Oh, Love, How Deep" #322

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,
beyond all thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake! | 3. For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptation sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew. |
| 5. For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath. | 6. For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer. |

Text: Thomas Kempis, Music: English ballad, 15th Century. Public Domain

Invitation to Lent

Confession of Sin

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

Most holy and merciful God, **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Imposition of Ashes

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*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.***

*Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.***

Prayers of Intercession

Meal

Offering

Offering Prayer

*Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

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.***

Proper Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

Communion *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Prayer

*Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life 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.***

Sending

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the 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, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.***

Hymn: "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" #319

1. O Lord, throughout these forty days
you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.
3. Through parched with hunger,
yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves
that we may know God's love.
4. Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise.

*Text base on Claudia F. Hermaman. Music: A.Davisson ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, 1969 Concordia Publishing House.
Used with permission under One License #A-710041*