

*Ash Wednesday*



*Wednesday March 1 2017  
7:00pm*

## ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

### GATHERING

#### KYRIE:

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Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.  
Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.  
Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.  
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

#### 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 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.**

**FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

## **Psalm 51:1-17**

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

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

<sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

<sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

## **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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### **GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The gospel of the Lord! **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

### **SERMON**

Pastor Miho Yasukawa

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* (ELW 608)

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,  
come home! (come home!)  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me? Refrain

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. Refrain

**INVITATION TO LENT**

*Please be Seated*

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most holy and merciful God,

**ALL: 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.**

P: 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.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: 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.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**ALL: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**ALL: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**ALL Amen.**

*(those who wish to receive ashes may come forward)*

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

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**ALL: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**ALL: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P: 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

WA: Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

WA: We pray for the church. Turn it toward you, loving God, and unite it in a desire to live for you alone. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: Sustain in us a willing spirit to care for the earth and all that lives on it, knowing that we are stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: We pray for the nations. Let no leader put an obstacle in the way of those seeking your justice, peace, and love. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: Let your light break forth and shine on those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Let your healing spring up quickly. *We pray especially for Bob Lyvers, Dick Johnson, Verl Price, Sheridan Brinker, Marybeth Brinker, Bruce, Beverly, Donna Euler, Katy Lartz, Kelli Huneke, Jane Parks, Dave Offermann, Scott Bonnet, Leta Toelke, Carol Stubbs, Steve Kampmeier, David Gray, Cheri Eden-Catron. Kathy Baumgartner, Robin Cross, Bob Herman, Connie.* Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: Guide this assembly constantly back to your word, your holy meal, and the unfailing waters of baptism. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: We give thanks for the lives of the faithful departed who have returned to the dust and thus to you. Inspire us by their examples of holy living. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord. **C:Amen.**

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **OFFERING**

**Offering Song** Create in Me a Clean Heart

**ELW #186**

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 uphold me with your free Spirit.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

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**

### **DIALOGUE**

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.**

## **PREFACE**

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.

Heaven 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. Hosanna in the highest.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 112)

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## COMMUNION SONG      Lamb of God      Page 208.

Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.  
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.  
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## TABLE BLESSING:

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: Amen.

## PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.

## 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.**