

Ash Wednesday

5 March 2025



+ HOLY COMMUNION – SETTING ONE +

GATHERING

The assembly gathers in silence.

Please stand as you are able.

Responsive Prayer

A Show us your mercy, O God,

C and grant us your salvation.

A Give us the joy of your saving help again,

C and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

A Give peace in all the world;

C for only in you can we live in safety.

A Keep the nations under your care,

C and guide us in the way of justice and truth.

A Let your way be known upon earth;

C your saving health among all nations.

A Let not the needy be forgotten,

C nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

A Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.

A Lord, hear my prayer,

C and let my cry come before you.

HYMN: Saviour, When in Dust to You

No. 601

GREETING

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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 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 Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON A Reading from the Book of Joel

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?'" (*Joel 2:1-2, 12-17*)

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Sung* **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 ev- | er 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 pur- | er 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 spir- | it within me.

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

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

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

Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.
O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.
The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise

SECOND LESSON

A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians

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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. (2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10)

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand as you are able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew
C **Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “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.

“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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“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. 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.

“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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*)

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY Just As I Am, without One Plea **No. 592**

Please be seated.

P Brothers and sisters God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love--the discipline of Lent--help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Pg. 252

The presiding minister leads the following or another confession.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND COMMUNION

Pg. 254

People may kneel or stand to receive the ashes.

Pastor marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

When all are returned to their seats.

Kneel

P Accomplish in us, O God...

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Please stand as you are able.*

Our compassionate and yet all-powerful God has called us to repentance. May our prayers and fasting assist us in coming before God: with pure hearts and minds, let us pray to the Lord, saying **Your mercy is great.**

For all Christians, who embracing their Lenten discipline with joy, that the cross of Christ may be their banner and the pledge of resurrection for their hope, we pray to the Lord:

Your mercy is great.

For those preparing for baptism - that their observance of the Lenten season strengthens their resolve to receive God's gift of new life, we pray to the Lord:

Your mercy is great.

For our young people, that they find Lent as a time of profound renewal, preparing for Easter, a season of unsurpassed joy. We pray to the Lord:

Your mercy is great.

For all churches, that Lent be a time of repentance for sins against the unity of the body of Christ. We pray to the Lord:

Your mercy is great.

For our synodical and area concerns that we remember the needs of others as we examine our own hearts and minds, we pray to the Lord:

Your mercy is great.

For this assembly, as we celebrate our union with Christ in this holy meal, that we are enlivened to proclaim his saving death and resurrection to the whole world, we pray to the Lord:

Your mercy is great.

For those who suffer from illness, especially the elderly, that they may receive the consolation of knowing the love of their crucified Savior, we pray to the Lord:

Your mercy is great.

For all virtually gathered for this service, those attending to the care of others and to beneficial endeavours that keep them away from worshiping, we pray:

Your mercy is great.

P O God, as you called the Israelites to repent of their sins, so now you call us through fasting and prayers in repentance for

wandering from you. Never let us lose our way and guide us during our Lenten journey that we arrive at the Easter vigil, ready once more to celebrate the passage with Christ from death to life, from despair to hope, trusting in the life of Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN O Lord, throughout These Forty Days **No. 319**
Setting of the altar. Reception of Offerings

OFFERING PRAYER *Please stand as you are able.*

A We 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.**

THE MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Setting One Pg. 107

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY Pg. 108

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (IV)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Version II) Pg. 112

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE FRACTION

P This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

C We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

Lamb of God *Sung*

Pg. 112

Please be seated.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

Assistants and those in special need commune first.

COMMUNION HYMN Let Us Break Bread Together

No. 471

TABLE BLESSING *Please stand as you are able.*

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.

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.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A We pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

Please stand as you are able.

THE BENEDICTION

C Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

P 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.

C Thanks be to God.

The assembly leaves in silence.



WELCOME to all who gather here this evening. We especially welcome our guests and visitors. We are blessed to have you begin your Lenten journey with us. Should you have any questions please feel free to ask one of today's servants or speak with the pastor. Online worship is provided for those unable to attend in-person.

WE THANK TODAY'S SERVANTS

Usher	Dave Wong
Lector	Dave Wong
Assistant Minister	Helga Weissenberger
Altar Guild	Helen Sandau
Zoom Host	Phil Tang, Ahmed Conteh

LENTEN SERVICES SCHEDULE

HOLY WEEK

13 April Palm Sunday	10:30 AM
16 April Healing Service	7:00 PM
The Triduum	
17 April Holy Thursday	7:00 PM
18 April Good Friday	10:30 AM
20 April Easter Sunday	10:30 AM

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? Contact Elizabeth Anderson 587 897 0548 or Bill Strand 403 239 9894

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

“Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not.”

- Martin Luther

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Organist's Blog: <https://highwoodorganist.wordpress.com>

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