

ASH WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

with the IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ASH WEDNESDAY

GATHERING _____

The congregation gathers in silence.

Stand Entrance

Psalm 51

The psalm is read responsively between leader and congregation.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your
loving-kindness;

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 transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

**Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.**

And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.

**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.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.
**Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
**Be favorable and gracious to Zion,
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt-
offerings and oblations;
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers: God created us to experience joy in community, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all 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 God, who does not desire us to come under judgment, but to 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 God for strength to persevere in our Lenten disciplines.

Let us confess our sin before God, our creator and redeemer.

Silence for reflection and self-examination precedes the confession.

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned
by our own 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, God.

We have been deaf 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, God.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy
that have infected our lives,
Have mercy on us, God.

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

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

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

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

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Sit Imposition of Ashes

Those who desire to receive ashes are invited to come forward and kneel at a prayer desk. The ministers apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Stand After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.

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 Christ's resurrection.

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 God to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit, that those things may be pleasing 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 eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The congregation responds: Amen.

WORD _____

Sit First Reading

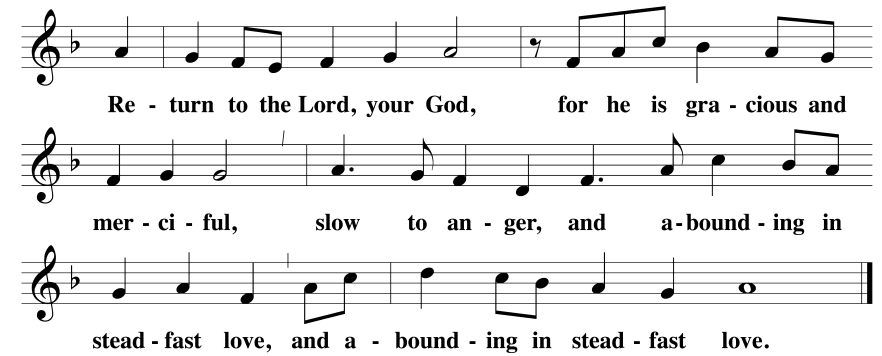
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

The readings conclude: The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand HOLY GOSPEL



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 6th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

+ SAINT MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21 +

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit Homily

Hymn of the Day

Out of the Depths



1. Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.
2. All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.
3. In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.
4. My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;
In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.
All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.
no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.
Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace
We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from
Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,
I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -
my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.
the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.
your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.
tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition: Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

Stand Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

MEAL _____

Presentation of the Gifts

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal -
 va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.
Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

We give you thanks ... both now and forever. **Amen**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

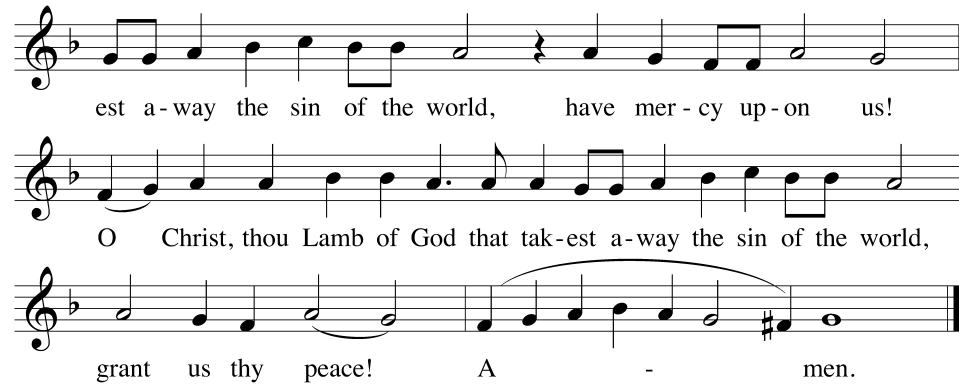
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Sit Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. At the invitation of an usher, please proceed to communion at the front of the church by the center aisle and return via the side aisles.

Lamb of God

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a - way the sin of the world,
 have mer - cy up - on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -



est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us!
 O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,
 grant us thy peace! A - men.

Prayer after Communion

Benediction

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The congregation departs in silence.

SENDING _____

Stand Table Blessing

Hymn Bless Now, O God, the Journey



1. Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo-ple make,
 2. Bless so - journ - ers and pil grims who share this winding way,
 3. Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 whose hope burns through the ter - rors, whose love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.