**Ash Wednesday**

**March 2, 2022**

***Evangelical Lutheran Worship***

**Setting 4**



**Lutheran Church of Our Saviour**

**Ministers: Every member of the congregation**

**Their Pastors: Rev. Beth Costlow & Rev. Donald Costlow**

**Organist: Marlon Scott**

**Production Staff: Ali Eastham and Harry Moose**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SILENT MEDITATION**

**GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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**

**PSALM 51** (read responsively)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;

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**.

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.

**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.

2"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. 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.

5"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. 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.

16"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. 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.

19"Do 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN: Savior, When in Dust to You ELW 601** Diagram, schematic

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**INVITATION TO LENT**

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**

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

*The assembly is invited to kneel. If extended kneeling is uncomfortable, please remain seated. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

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.

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

**PENITENTIAL REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM:**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. The global pandemic has forced a change in practices for this year, so we do not have the ashes that are our custom. Still, we are reminded of our mortality and penitence, and we remember that it is only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister leads the congregation in tracing the baptismal cross on each of our own foreheads, as we say together:*

**I remember that I am dust, and to dust I shall return.**

*Please stand as you feel comfortable.*

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 keeps us in eternal life.

**Amen**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Encourage believers who hold the church’s doors open to those who have felt excluded. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief (*especially*). Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, + bless you this day and always.

**Amen.**

**Hymn: Restore in Us, O God ELW 328**A picture containing table

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A picture containing table

Description automatically generated**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Copyright Information for Hymns:**

**Savior, When in Dust to You**

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838

Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841-1903

**Restore in Us, O God**

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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