

CONFESSION OF SIN: (ELW p. 252)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES (ELW p. 254)

HYMN: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (ELW 325)

PRAYERS OF PETITION: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING THE PEACE

GIFT GATHERING & SONG: *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (ELW 186)

OFFERING PRAYER: Let us pray. **Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

MEAL (ELW p. 152)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

COMMUNION HYMNS: *Lamb of God* (ELW p. 154)

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* (ELW 608)

*Chief of Sinners Though I Be* (ELW 609)

*Lord Jesus, Think on Me* (ELW 599)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Let us pray. **We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

SENDING SONG: *Bless Now, O God the Journey* (ELW 326)

DISMISSAL

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This Week's Challenge Questions for Lent:

- In what ways can you see the church surprising (or failing to surprise) the broader culture through its behaviour?
- Reflect on the rhythms of your life. Which of them are motivated primarily by your faith?
- Of those, which do you think would qualify as 'questionable'—practices that others in your life would find surprising or intriguing?

*All who desire communion with Jesus and approach the sacrament with faith, are welcome at the Lord's Table. While both the common cup and individual glasses are offered, we encourage the use of the common cup to emphasize the unity we share in the Body of Christ, the church (please indicate your preference to the servers). A non-alcohol option is available in the tray. You may also partake of bread only, or come to the table for a blessing only.*

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# Ash Wednesday

## Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), Setting 4 p.147; Ash Wednesday p.251*



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## GATHERING AND WELCOME

**OPENING HYMN:** *Jesus, Priceless Treasure (ELW 775)*

### GREETING

**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 2:12-17 A reading from Joel.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>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?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>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?" "

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17** (*Sung in unison*)

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

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great

endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Return to the Lord (ELW p. 151)**

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

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"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.

<sup>2</sup>"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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>"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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>"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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON:** (*Read along at [www.raspberryman.wordpress.com](http://www.raspberryman.wordpress.com)*)

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song (ELW 808)**

**INVITATION TO LENT**