

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021 · 7:00 pm



This document is for use only during remote worship by members and friends of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Asheville NC, and may not be reproduced or transmitted in any fashion.

Liturgical texts and music from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26951.

Scripture quotations are from Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, and 1971 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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?’”

Psalm 51:1-17

Sung responsively

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³For I know | my transgressions,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴**Against you only | have I sinned
and done what is evil | in your sight.**

⁵And so you are justified | when you speak
and upright | in your judgment.

⁶**Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.**

⁷For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly

⁸**Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.**

⁹Make me hear of | joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

¹⁰**Hide your face | from my sins
and blot out all | my iniquities.**

¹¹Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

¹²**Cast me not away | from your presence
and take not your holy | Spirit from me.**

¹³Give me the joy of your saving | help again
and sustain me with your bount- | iful Spirit.

¹⁴**I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,
and sinners shall re- | turn to you.**

¹⁵Deliver me from | death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of | my salvation.

¹⁶**Open my | lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.**

¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight | in burnt-offerings.

¹⁸**The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forev- | er. Amen.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

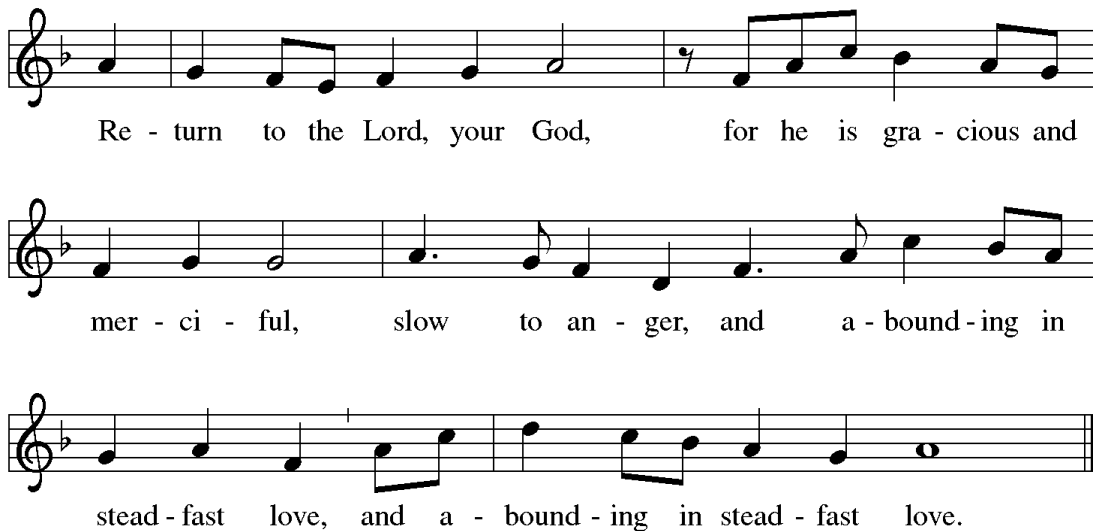
We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“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.

Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord”



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.

Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation

Silence for reflection follows the meditation.

Hymn of the Day

“The Lord is My Song”

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and the second system corresponds to the second line. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady rhythm.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

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 on 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 begin 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.

Silence 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.

Imposition of Ashes

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 keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Offering

Voluntary

“Silence May Be Kept”

Dan Locklair

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Holy God, our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide, by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs, and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness. For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert, calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness, and walking with us into newness of life. For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.
We glorify you, O God.

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit, that strengthened by your Word, we may care for others and for the world you made, and work for justice and peace for all. For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing,
Holy God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer



Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.



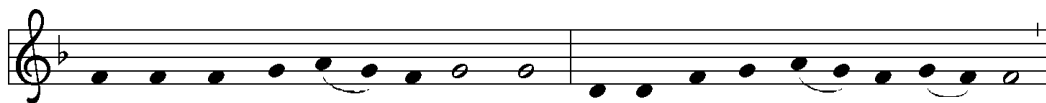
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and for ever.

Amen.

Hymn

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"



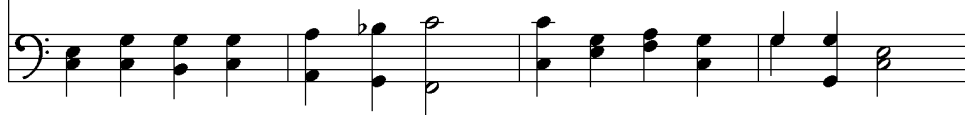
On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!



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.

Postlude

"Savior, When in Dust To You"

Healey Willan



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

10 North Liberty Street · Asheville, North Carolina 28801

(828) 253-0043 · www.stmarkslutheran.net

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Friday: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Ministers

The People of God at St. Mark's

Staff

Pastor: The Reverend Matthew Smith

pastormatt@stmarkslutheran.net

Director of Discipleship and Faith Formation: Deacon Katie Rivers

katierivers@stmarkslutheran.net

Cantor: David Anderson

cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net

Parish Administrator: Scottie Miller

scottiemiller@stmarkslutheran.net

Pastor of Caring Ministries: The Reverend Linda McHenry

pastorlinda@stmarkslutheran.net

Facilities Manager: Eileen Cram

eileencram@stmarkslutheran.net

Nursery Director: Ginger Dixon