



# Faith Evangelical

Lutheran Church  
Walworth, WI

## ASH WEDNESDAY

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GREETING

☞ The Lord be with you. ☛ **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ☛ **Amen.**

### BIBLE READING: Psalm 51:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- <sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- <sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**
- <sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- <sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
- <sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter. ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

[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.”

☐ This is the gospel of the Lord. ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **THE MESSAGE**

## SONG OF THE DAY “Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus” ELW #802 (vs. 1,2,4)

### INVITATION TO LENT

**P** 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

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Most holy and merciful God,

**C** **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.**

**P** 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.

**C** **Have mercy on us.**

**P** 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.

**C** **Have mercy on us.**

**P** Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us.**

**P** Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our mistreatment of other people, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us.**

**P** Our carelessness in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us.**

**P** Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us.**

**P** Our false judgments, our unkind thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us.**

**P** Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us.**

**P** Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

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

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

**P** Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and repentance, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C** **Amen.**

*People may come forward to receive the cross on their forehead or hand*

**P** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After everyone who wishes to has received ashes*

**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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P** Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Holy and righteous God, teach us, your church, to be honest about our sinfulness. Turn our hearts back to you to receive the fullness of your forgiveness and redemption. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Open wide your hand to satisfy the needs of every living thing. Send your Spirit to places suffering from drought or floods. Fill every habitat with life. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Raise up reconcilers who point us to the sources of injustice and teach us how to build relationships. Establish your lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Soothe the souls of people who feel like they are beyond your mercy. Wash away the barriers that keep us far from you, and restore joy in our lives. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Fill our fasting bodies with your Spirit of justice. Lead us into the challenging work of feeding and freeing all people. Fulfill your purpose in us. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**P** Reveal the treasures of heaven through the witness of all your saints. Give us the will to journey faithfully and to bear Christ's salvation to all who yearn for it. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**P** Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*THANK YOU for offering your whole self to God with the gifts of time, talents, and resources you are sharing today. The offering plate is located by the sanctuary doors.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. **C** **Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to joyfully give our thanks and praise.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**ℙ** Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**ℙ** Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. **☩ Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**ℙ** God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, **☩** bless you and bring you to life everlasting. **☩ Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**      **“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”**      *ELW #618 (all)*

### **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. **☩ Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**