

Ash Wednesday

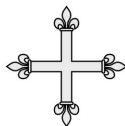


February 17 2021, 7:00 PM

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School
9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.



Gathering

Greeting

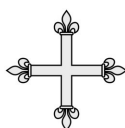
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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 your Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Word

First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

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?'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 51:1-17

*The refrain is sung by the choir the first time. Please sing the second time. The verses are sung by the choir. Please sing the refrain where indicated by **R**.*

Refrain

Have mer - cy on me, O
God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love.

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

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me. **R**

⁴Against 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.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb. **R**

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow. **R**

Refrain

Have mer - cy on me, O
God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love.

- ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me. **R**
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. **R**
- ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- ¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness. **R**
- ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.
- ¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise. **R**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The choir sings the acclamation first. Please sing the second time.

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

Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

[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.

Reflection

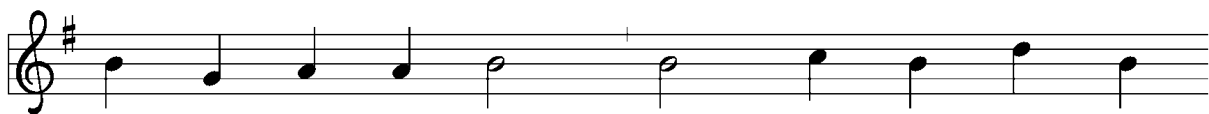
Pastor Miller

Hymn of the Day

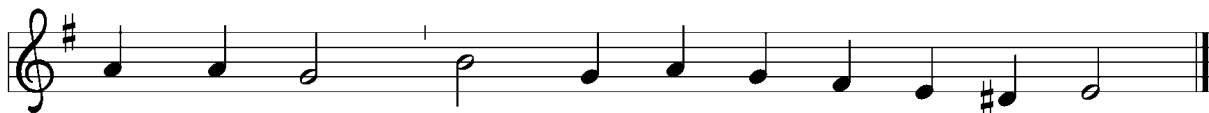
ELW 320



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength-en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906, All rights reserved.

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.

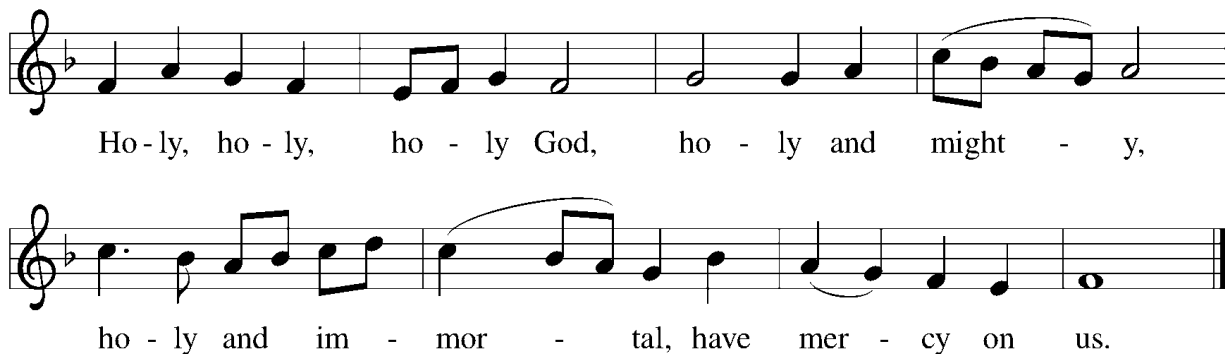
We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy 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. 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.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Please sing the refrain at the beginning and after each verse



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,
ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness.
For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves.

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of
God in others. For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and
warfare.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the
fruits of creation. For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm.

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of
love and grace.

Imposition of Ashes/Soil/Water

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Bless our ashes, soil and water.
May these signs of our mortality and penitence remind us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are
we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Persons living together may sign each other on the forehead and persons living alone may mark their own forehead.

When ashes or soil are used

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

If water is used

Remember that you were buried with Christ in baptism.

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.

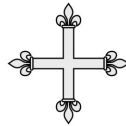
Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.



Thanksgiving

Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or on the Give Plus app.

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Music at the offering

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me a way from your presence and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Create in me a clean heart
Music: Ronald Nelson (1927-2014)
Text: Psalm 51, 10-12

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of hope and generosity, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We open our hands and return to you what you have first given us. Empower us to share our time, talent and possessions. Use them to bring peace, justice and comfort to the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life 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.

The Lord's Prayer



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



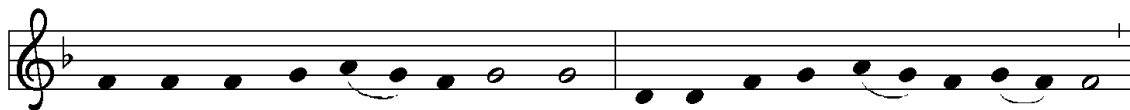
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



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 - gainst 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.

Sending

Blessing

We are what God made us to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

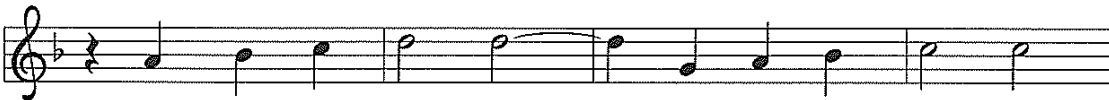
ELW 639



1 *Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,*
1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain, . . .
3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find . . .



y si mo - ri - mos pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.
and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord. . .
when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace, . . .
those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind; . . .



Sea que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,
Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
and when we help them, or when we feed them,



so - mos del Se - ñor, so - mos del Se - ñor.
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.

2 *En la tristeza y en el dolor,
en la belleza y en el amor,
sea que suframos o que gocemos,
somos del Señor, somos del Señor.*

3 *En este mundo por doquier habrá
gente que llora y sin consolar.
Sea que ayudemos o que alimentemos,
somos del Señor, somos del Señor.*

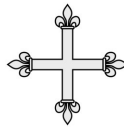
Dismissal

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.

Silent Prayer and Remembrance

During the tolling of 50 bells on the carillon we meditate upon our mortality, giving thanks for God's grace, and remember so many in the United States and around the world who have died from covid-19.



WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Quartet

Members from Schola Cantorum

Sarah Pfanz, *soprano*

Tacy Downing, *alto*

Ralph Watkins, *tenor*

Jeff Jox, *baritone*

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