

Worship Plan for Wednesday, February 14, 2024
ELW Ash Wednesday without Communion

PRELUDE: ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter, During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and defencelessness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We are called to worship today, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin ...

O Lord, you are just in all your ways, faithful in all your works.

All: You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you in truth.

Pastor: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

All: have mercy on us.

Pastor: For self-centred living and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness,

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves,

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Pastor: With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace. **Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sin. Through the Holy Spirit, God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I there for declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: ELW#186 ‘Create in Me a Clean Heart’

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through 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

¹Blow 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—²a 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. ¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend 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. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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. ¹⁷Between 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: 51:1-17

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; 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 offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**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.**

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

⁶**Indeed, 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.

⁸**Let 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.

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

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶**For 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.

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

²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

⁶As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ²For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you."^[a] I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. ³

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in

the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 252)

Return to the LORD, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ¹⁶“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor John Mayer Dut

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#701 ‘Once We Sang and Danced’

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLES

Pastor: Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation, saying Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Holy God, you gather your people in solemn assembly. Grant us grace to observe a holy Lent through fasting, prayer, and works of love. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: You give generously to all your creatures. Provide for all animals whose winter rations are dwindling, and prepare the earth for renewal in coming weeks. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: You move your people to cry out for justice. Reveal all the ways in which we oppress others. Turn us from our complacency, and move us to work on their behalf. We pray for countries who are engaging in civil war, Sudan. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: You lift the poor. Care for all who know poverty of any kind: of daily needs, of spirit, of health we pray; and those who we remember in our hearts silently or name loud. Pour your abundant mercy upon them. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: You turn people from their sin to live for you alone. Renew us in the covenant of baptism, that we might live in hope of a creation reconciled and restored. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: As we remember saints who have gone before us, guide us in our journey and open our lives to the cleansing and renewing power of your abundant forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

IMPOSITIONS OF ASHES

SIGN OF THE CROSS:

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you**

OFFERING

PRAYERS AFTER OFFERING: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.

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.**

SENDING SONG: WOV#748 ‘Bind Us Together’

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**