

# ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

7:00 PM

## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

To make disciples for Jesus Christ . . .  
. . . we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer, study and fellowship  
. . . we **Equip** the people of God with a faith that works in real life  
. . . we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

### FLC STAFF

Pastor ..... Bruce Thorsen  
Music Director ..... Deb Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist ..... Bruce Williams  
Administrative Assistant ..... Connie Denbrock  
Youth & Education Director ..... Pam Williams  
Sound Technicians ..... Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek  
Church email ..... [faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website ..... [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page ..... [facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

WiFi: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

## ***Please Enter in Silence***

### **PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17** (Read Responsively)

**R Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)**

<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.**

**R Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

<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.**

**R Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

<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.**

**R Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

<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.

**R Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

### **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.**

### **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

A reading from Joel.

*Because of the coming day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community declares that God is gracious and asks God to spare the people lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

<sup>1</sup>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— <sup>2</sup>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.

<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?' "

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B; 6:1-10**

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

*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.*

<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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – I Love You Lord**

Words and Music by Laurie Klein

*♩ = 76*

**F** **Gm/F** **F** **F/E<sup>b</sup>**

I love You, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and I lift my voice \_\_\_\_\_ to

**5** **B<sup>b</sup>/D** **F/C** **C/B<sup>b</sup>** **F/A** **Gm11** **Gm7** **C** **C7/E**

wor - ship You, O my soul, re - joice! Take

**9** **F** **Gm/F** **F** **Fsus/G** **F/A**

joy, my King, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ what You hear: \_\_\_\_\_ May it be a

**13** **B<sup>b</sup>** **F/A** **Gm11** **C** **Dm/C** **C7** **F** **B<sup>b</sup>/F** **F**

sweet, sweet \_\_\_\_\_ sound in \_\_\_\_\_ Your ear. \_\_\_\_\_

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**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:] <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**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY - Restore in Us, O God (Sung to ELW 599)**

- 1 Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love; renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.
- 2 O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r; from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flow'r.
- 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy; baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.
- 4 Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace, that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

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## **INVITATION TO LENT**

*[The assembly is seated.]*

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**

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

*[Silence is kept 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**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, 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.

**Amen.**

*[People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.]*

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

*[The Assembly stands.]*

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**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war Israel and Palestine, Russia and Ukraine. Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace among the nations.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind, especially those impacted by gun violence, especially the greater MSU community as we still mourn and heal from the tragedy a year ago. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray for caregivers and people who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness especially Susan Bates, Andrew Funk, Walter Kopf, Helen Dersch, Dale Halvorson, Marla Holle, Gene Miller, Mavis Halvorson, Alice Hendrickson, Chip Pittman, Trudy Cook, Harry Nawrock, Lois Neves, Mara Lusic, Charlotte Rasmussen, Helen Brinkman, Bob Shorman, Joy Costar, Marilyn Hogan, Todd Barricklow, Eric and Karen Casler, Kenley and Allyson, Richard Kemmler, and the family of Joan Herbon.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for those who served you in the church. Bring us with all the saints into everlasting joy.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING

“A Clean Heart”

Benjamin Harlan

*Chancel Choir*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody in the treble staff consists of eighth-note chords and quarter notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,"

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,"

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

The third system concludes the phrase. The lyrics are: "heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry."

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin[g]-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin[g]-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

“Lamb of God”

Twila Paris, arr. Lloyd Larsen

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

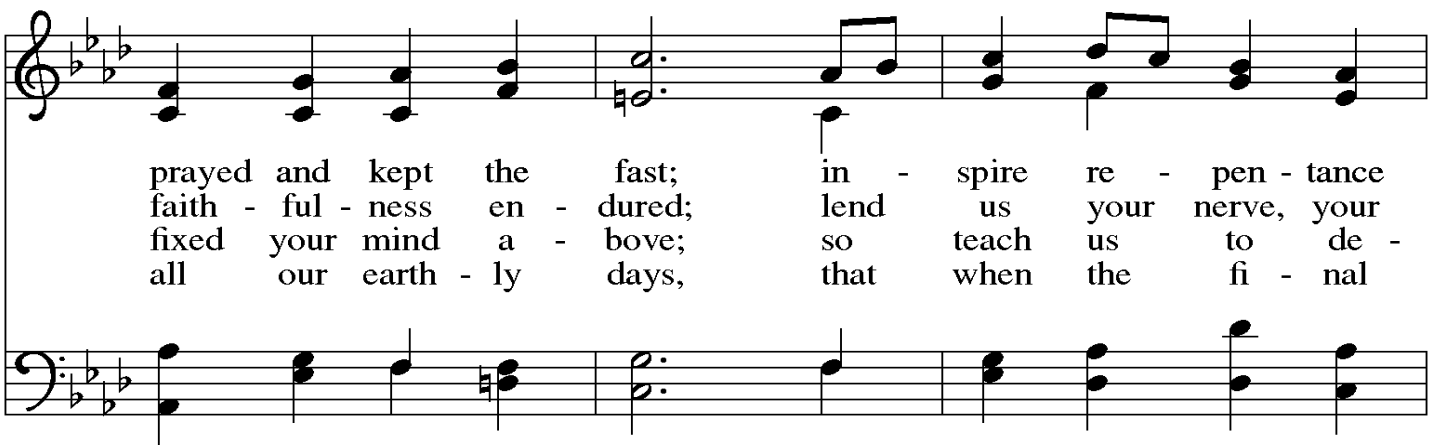
## **BLESSING**

Beloved, we are God’s own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

# SENDING SONG - O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (ELW 319)



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930  
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003  
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Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share God's grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## *FAITH VOLUNTEERS*

Reader: Rich Weingartner  
Altar Care: Elaine Harrison  
Acolyte: Calvin Kadrofske

Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner  
Ushers: Jamie & Randy Royalty



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