



Ash Wednesday  
February 14, 2024  
7:00pm  
Holy Communion

*The Pure and Holy Lamb of God*

## **PRAYER CARD**

If you have a Prayer Request, use the **YELLOW** card that is available in the narthex, from an usher, or in the pew racks. Ushers will collect the cards before the Sermon so that prayers can be offered during the Intercessions.

If you are visiting with us, please use the Information Update on the reverse side of the card. Include your name and address and other important information. If our congregation can assist you in any way, please put that information on the card or speak to the Pastor.

## **ASSISTANCE**

The ushers can supply parents of small children with soft toys, books, and a weekly children's worship bulletin. The parlor (the room behind the sanctuary) has a loud speaker and window so that, if necessary, parents can use it as a cry room and still see and hear the service. Large-print editions of our worship service are also available from the ushers.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Based on the teachings of Scripture and in response to the Lord's admonition that, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)," we ask that those who attend the Lord's Supper ask of themselves the following questions:

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner in need of God's grace? (1 John 1:8-9)
2. Are you truly sorry for your sins? (1 Cor. 11:26-29)
3. Do you believe in Jesus as your Savior? (Romans 5:6)
4. Do you intend with the aid of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful life? (2 Cor. 5:15)
5. Do you believe you receive Christ's true body and blood in the Lord's Supper? (Mark 14:22-24)
6. Do you trust God and His promises and accept as true all He teaches in Holy Scriptures? (John 8:31-32)
7. Have you been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? (Matthew 28:19-20)

If your answer to these questions is yes, then we welcome you to the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions, burdens, or doubts concerning the sacrament, please speak with the Pastor before communing. Adults and children not receiving the Body and Blood of Christ may instead come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest. Gluten free rice wafers are available. Please indicate this by clearly raising your index finger. Please inform an usher if you are unable to come to the altar; the elements will be brought to you.

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

*The minister enters the sanctuary in silence.*

*All who are able, stand*

*The psalm verses are read by the pastor and congregation.*

**PSALM: Psalm 51:1-13**

P Look on me with a heart of mercy, O God,

**C according to Your generous love.**

P According to Your great compassion,

**C wipe out every consequence of my shameful crimes.**

P Thoroughly wash me, inside and out, of all my crooked deeds.

**C Cleanse me from my sins.**

P For I am fully aware of all I have done wrong,

**C and my guilt is there, staring me in the face.**

P It was against You, only You, that I sinned,

**C for I have done what You say is wrong, right before Your eyes.**

P So when You speak, You are in the right.

**C When You judge, Your judgements are pure and true.**

P For I was guilty from the day I was born,

**C a sinner from the time my mother became pregnant with me.**

P But still, You long to enthrone truth throughout my being;

**C in unseen places deep within me, You show me wisdom.**

P Cleanse me of my wickedness with hyssop, and I will be clean.

**C If You wash me, I will be whiter than snow.**

P Help me hear joy and happiness as my accompaniment,

**C so my bones, which You have broken, will dance in delight instead.**

P Cover Your face so You will not see my sins,

**C and erase my guilt from the record.**

P Create in me a clean heart, O God;

**C restore within me a sense of being brand new.**

P Do not throw me far away from Your presence,

**C and do not remove Your Holy Spirit from me.**

P Give back to me the deep delight of being saved by You;

**C let Your willing Spirit sustain me.**

P Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

**C and sinners will return to you.**

P Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,

**C and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**

## **EXHORTATION**

**P:** Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love – the discipline of Lent – help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

*There is silence for reflection and self-examination.*

## CONFESSION

**P:** Most holy and merciful Father:

**C:** We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own 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, Lord.

**P:** We have been deaf 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, Lord.

**P:** We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**C:** we confess to you, Lord.

**P:** Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**C:** we confess to you, Lord.

**P:** Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**C:** we confess to you, Lord.

**P:** Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**C:** we confess to you, Lord.

**P:** Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**C:** we confess to you, Lord.

**P:** Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C:** accept our repentance, Lord.

**P:** For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

**P:** For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

**P:** Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen**

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward and kneel at the rail.*

*Worshippers who prefer not to receive ashes may remain at their pew and spend the time in quiet meditation.*

*During this time, you may wish to turn to page 239 in the Lutheran Book of Worship and meditate on Psalm 51.*

*The pastor returns to the sanctuary to continue the service.*

*All who are able, stand*

**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 Lord,

**C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

**P:** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

### **SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

*All sit*

### **FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:12-19, Return to God**

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. <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; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. <sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” <sup>8</sup>Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. <sup>9</sup>The LORD answered and said to his people, Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

**P:** The word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God!

### **SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10, Now is the day of salvation**

We implore 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>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put 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 commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;

<sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise.

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

**P:** The word of the Lord. **C:** **Thanks be to God!**

*All who are able, stand*

## **VERSE**

*The verse is spoken by the pastor and congregation.*

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Woe to unrepentant cities**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord!**

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. <sup>2</sup> "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup> "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> that your fasting may not be seen 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 lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves



treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys 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!

*All sit*

### SERMON – The Pure and Holy Lamb of God - 1 Peter 1:13-19

*After the Sermon, PRAYER CARDS can be handed towards the center aisle and given to an usher.*

*All who are able, stand*

### Hymn: Lamb of God, Pure and Holy – LSB 434



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,  
2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,  
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.  
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.  
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:  
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:  
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!  
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!  
Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941  
Text and tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546  
Text and tune: Public domain

## PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

**P:** Gathered by the Spirit, let us return to the Lord our God and pray for the church, the world, and all who yearn for new life.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** Almighty God, you have commanded us to pray, and you promise to hear us. Hear the prayers of your people and grant us all that we need, for the sake of the one in whose name we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## COMMUNION

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**P:** Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation  
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper. Amen.

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. Amen.

**P:** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

*All sit*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*All who are able, stand*

**P:** Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen

**P:** Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

## BLESSING FOR THE LENTEN JOURNEY

**P:** Along the ways of peace may the almighty and merciful Lord lead us. Show us your ways, O Lord,

**C:** and teach us your paths,

**P:** so that our ways are directed

**C:** to keeping your commandments.

**P:** The crooked shall be made straight

**C:** and the rough places smooth.

**P:** Lord, hear our prayer,

**C:** and let our cry come before you.

**P:** Let us pray. Almighty God, you led the children of Israel through a mighty sea to freedom and to the promised land. So lead us now on our journey through these forty days of the Easter renewal. Bless what we do in your name during these days, that it may lead to a greater commitment of faith in you and in your Son, into whose death and resurrection we were baptized. Hear us, Father, for his sake.

**C:** Amen

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C:** Amen

*You are invited to remain in silent prayer after the service.*

We strive to use our gifts and the best resources available to support people in their faith. To inquire about our sermons and/or the resources used to produce them please contact us through our church office.

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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