



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2024 12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Notices

Psalm 51:1-17 (Read responsively)

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.

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.**

The Reading of God's Word

***First Reading*: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (read by Lay Reader)**

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?'"

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10 (read by Lay Reader)

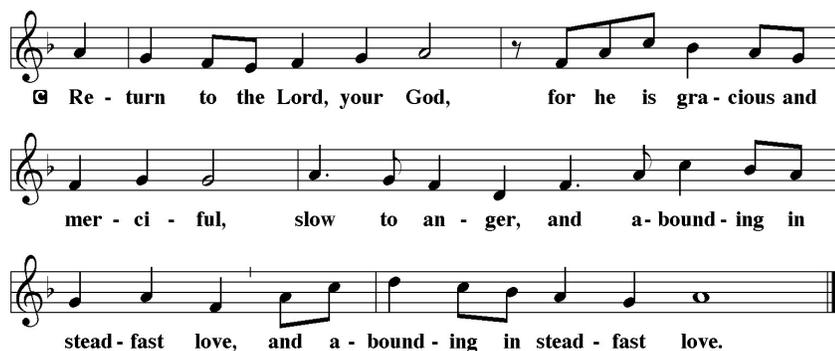
^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as 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



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

Gospel Reading

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 6th chapter.



☩ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"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.

²"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

themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise;
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

Invitation to Lent

Brothers & sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with God, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of God's 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 God, who does not desire us to come under judgment, but to turn to God and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from 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 God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

All are invited to come forward and receive ashes. Pastor will mark your forehead.

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return”

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.

Hymn: “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” WOV 734

- 1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

- 2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*
- 3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,

promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

The Offering Please leave your offering on our website: https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Dc8dzPGn4-LCajFevTkh9MYPCImH2sG-jdxWYJMFGW_IQfxkD4hBw8WoQ6UZLveQvLkSxosar2o939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKkoPpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_VCHQ6_VCoE=&ver=3

Prayers of Intercession

(Each petition ends with... Merciful God, the congregation responds: **receive our prayer.**)

The Lord's Prayer

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

**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**

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Hymn: "O Lord Throughout these Forty Days" LBW #99

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God

OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- + To *gather* as God’s people and nurture one another
- + To *know* the Word of God
- + To *grow* in faith, love, and service
- + To *go* into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ



SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor	The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen
Music Director	7:00 p.m. Michael Dettra
Lay Reader	noon Jeanne Gryszka
	7:00 p.m. open



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES,

THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 21

“*Book of Acts*” is the theme for worship this season of Lent.

Services will be held in person and online this year Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m., February 21 through March 21 in the Social Hall

Mid-week Lenten Worship services may also be attended by **Zoom** and will be live streamed on **Facebook**. A recording of the services will be uploaded to **YouTube** and linked to our website immediately after the service concludes. While using Zoom, please mute yourself when you are not speaking.

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>



MID-WEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Gather at church during the season of Lent for soup and fellowship before the mid-week Lenten worship service. The Soup Suppers will begin at **6:00 p.m.** in the social hall on **Thursdays** February 22 through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

ASPIRE-1 NIGHT, 3 HOURS!

Join in on an evening full of laughter, learning, stories & music. The event will be held on Saturday, February 24 at Calvary Church, Rte. 113 in Souderton PA. The show starts at 6 pm. Doors open at 5:30 unless you have a VIP ticket and the doors open at 5 pm. General admission is \$30 and VIP tickets are \$40. Call 480-812-1100 or online @ ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

On Sunday, **February 25** we will have **one worship service at 9:00 a.m.** The Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the service at **10:00 a.m.** Please plan to attend so that we make quorum and are able to conduct the business of the Church.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, please plan to attend via zoom.

While using Zoom, please mute yourself when you are not speaking.

Topic: Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 25, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>