

Ash Wednesday

March 1, 2017

12:10pm and 7:00pm



THE INVOCATION

P: In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PSALM 51 (excerpts)

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

C: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

C: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

L: Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

C: For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

L: Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

C: Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

L: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

ALL SING:

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way

from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
 and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. The Lord be with you

C. And also with you.

P. 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

WORD

FIRST LESSON Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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?'"

This is the word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

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

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 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

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

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

C. Glory to you, O Lord!

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."

P. The Gospel of the Lord!

C. Praise to you, O Christ!

HYMN

LSB 611 "Chief of Sinners though I Be" (stanzas 1-3)

HOMILY

"The Problem with Locusts"

HYMN

LSB 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" (stanzas 4,5)

INVITATION TO LENT & CONFESSION

L. Friends in Christ, we begin this holy season of Lent 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.

C. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

L. 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.

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

P. Most holy and merciful God,

C. 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.

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, O God.

P. Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C. Have mercy on us, O God.

P. Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

C. Have mercy on us, O God.

P. Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

C. Have mercy on us, O God.

P. Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C. Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who wish to receive ashes are invited to come forward. The ministers shall mark the forehead of each person with the ash-cross and say:

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

After all have received ashes and returned to their places, all stand and continue:

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 Savior,

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

P. 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.

C. Amen

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERING

7pm Choir Sings: “O Lamb of God, I Come”

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P. This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

C. We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen

DISTRIBUTION

7pm Bell Choir Plays: "Fairest Lord Jesus"

PRAYER

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

CLOSING HYMN

LSB 418 "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

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