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ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of our 40-day pilgrimage of Lent - a season of contemplation, spiritual discipline, and repentance. We reflect upon our sinfulness as we call to mind the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness and His journey to the cross.

We begin worship in silence.

PSALM 51 - *The pastor reads the words in plain font. Please respond with the words in bold.*

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
5 And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.
6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
9 Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
10 Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.
11 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
12 Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
13 Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.
15 Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
16 Open my lips, O Lord**,**
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt offerings.
18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
19 Be favorable and gracious to Zion,

and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
[20]**Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt offerings and oblations; then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

EXHORTATION & INSTRUCTION
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 love of God and love of neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the discipline of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare. We are invited, therefore to commit ourselves to this struggle and to confess our sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in our Lenten discipline and in the Christian faith.

We observe silence for reflection and self-examination.

CONFESSION OF SINS
Most holy and merciful Father: **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.**

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, Lord.

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.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,
we confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our waste and misuse of the gifts you give, and the exploitation of other people,
we confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
we confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly good and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
we confess to you, Lord.

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

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,
accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
accept our repentance, Lord.

For our poor stewardship of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire so, may impose ashes upon themselves and others in their household, making the sign of the cross on our foreheads while saying these words from Genesis 3:19,
"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

We observe silence for individual prayer.

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 Lord,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

The pastor stands and addresses the congregation.

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. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. **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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Joel 2:12-19

12"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping,
and with mourning; 13and 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. 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; consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly; 16gather 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. 17Between 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?'" 18Then the Lord became
jealous for his land and had pity on his people. 19The 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."

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

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

[20b]We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21]For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. [1]Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. [2]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. [3]We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, [4]but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, [5]beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; [6]by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; [7]by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; [8]through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; [9]as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; [10]as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

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

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the sixth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[1]{Jesus said,} "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. [2]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. [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. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. [5]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. [6]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…[16]"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. [17]But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, [18]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. [19]Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, [20]but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21]For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

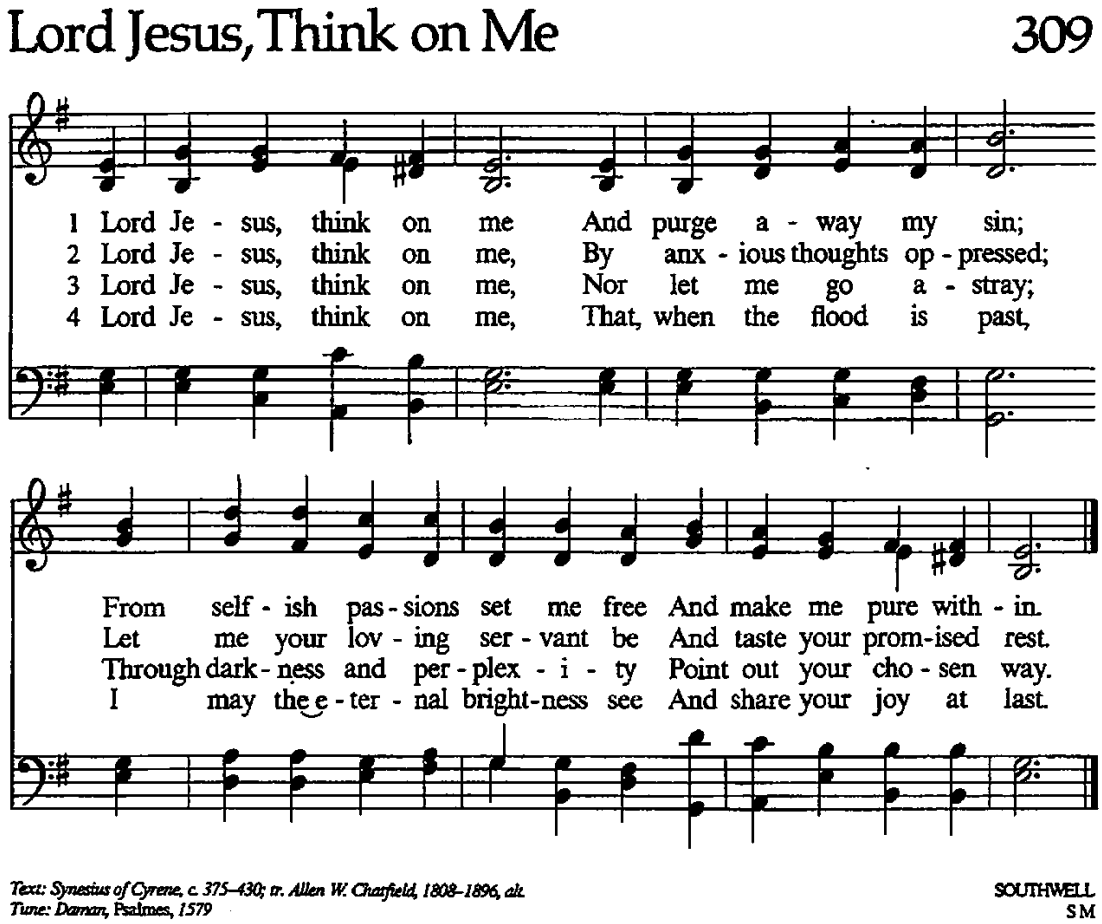
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

LENTEN REFLECTION

We observe a brief silence after the Lenten reflection, then please stand and sing as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY:



INTERCESSORY PRAYERS
Let us pray, not as we ought but as we are able…

Each petition ends with these words: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

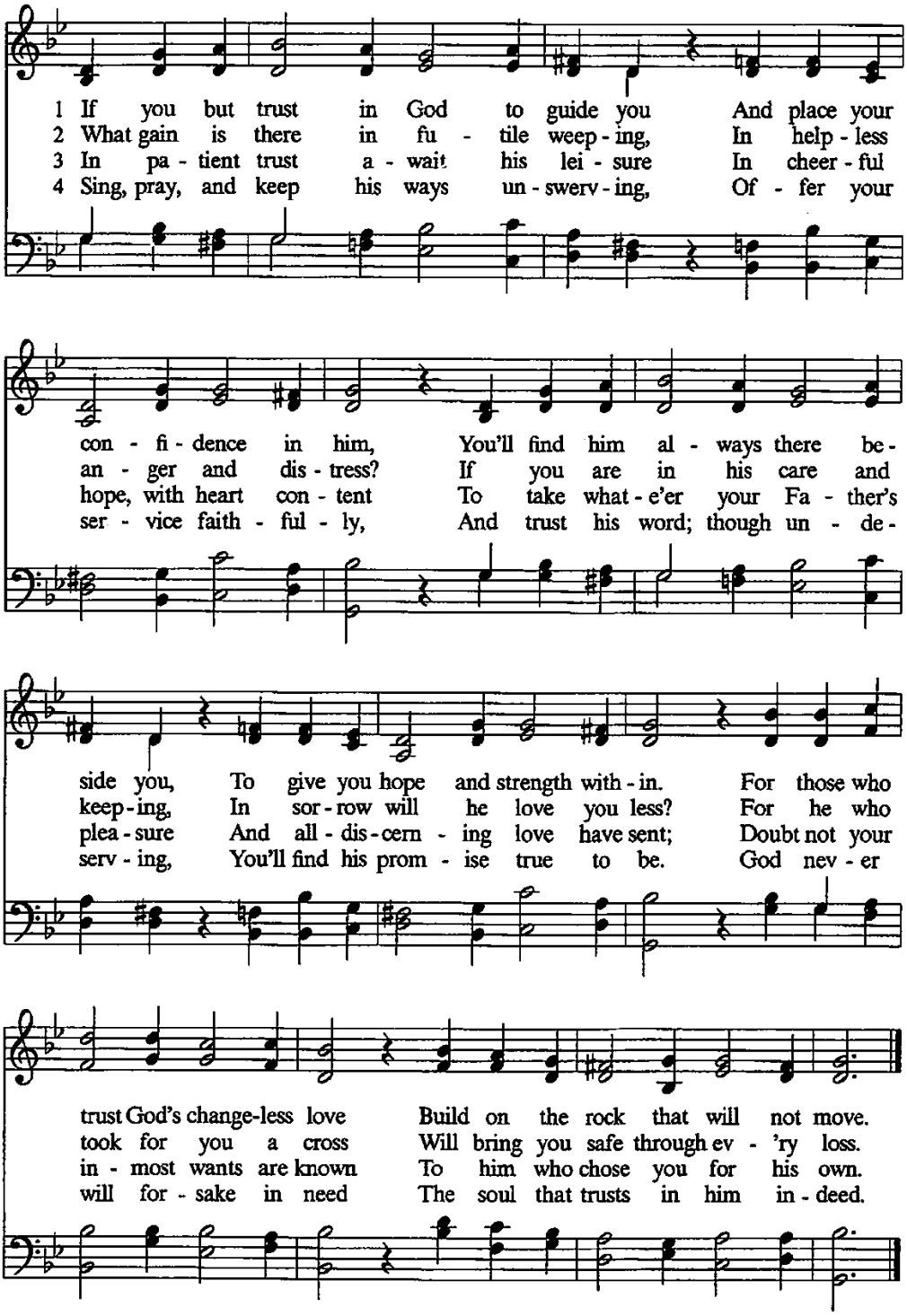
All of these things and whatever else you see that we need, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER
Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...
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 His peace.
In the name of the Father, and of + the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMNS:

453 If You But Trust in God to Guide You



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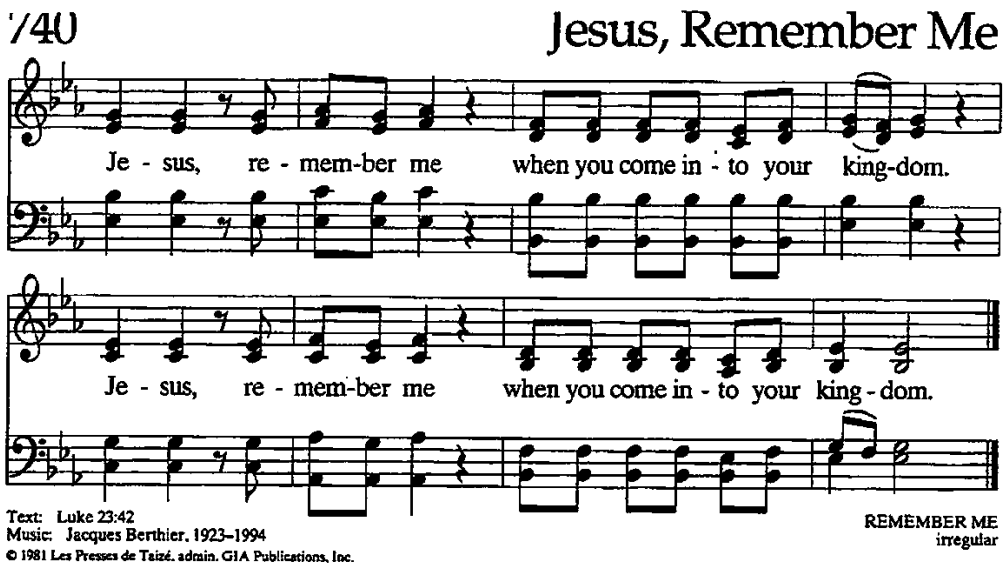
Sing three times.



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

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WELCOME! We are delighted to have you join us for worship today! Love God. Love neighbor.

Serve with joy in Jesus' name.
worship + fellowship + discipleship

Who We Are -
As a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church we hold four core values, to be:
Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, & Congregationally Focused.

Ministers: Joy Mission Church
Pastor: Rev. Paulette D. McHugh
Organist: Lavenia Hentz
Guest Pianist for Lent: Laurie Lackey
Parish Administrator: Scheri Force
Visit us at www.joymission.church