

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**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.

<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, abounding in steadfast love,  
     and relenting from punishment.

<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 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?'"

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your <sup>1</sup> steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out <sup>1</sup> my offenses.  
<sup>2</sup> **Wash me through and through <sup>1</sup> from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me <sup>1</sup> from my sin.**  
<sup>3</sup> For I know <sup>1</sup> my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- <sup>1</sup> er before me.  
<sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil <sup>1</sup> in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right <sup>1</sup> in your judgment. R**  
<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born <sup>1</sup> steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my <sup>1</sup> mother's womb.  
<sup>6</sup> **Indeed, you delight in truth <sup>1</sup> deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom <sup>1</sup> deep within.**  
<sup>7</sup> Remove my sins with hyssop, and I <sup>1</sup> shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- <sup>1</sup> er than snow.  
<sup>8</sup> **Let me hear <sup>1</sup> joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken <sup>1</sup> may rejoice. R**  
<sup>9</sup> Hide your face <sup>1</sup> from my sins,  
and blot out <sup>1</sup> all my wickedness.  
<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean <sup>1</sup> heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- <sup>1</sup> it within me.**  
<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away <sup>1</sup> from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- <sup>1</sup> it from me.  
<sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of <sup>1</sup> your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- <sup>1</sup> tiful Spirit. R**  
<sup>13</sup> Let me teach your ways <sup>1</sup> to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- <sup>1</sup> stored to you.  
<sup>14</sup> **Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of <sup>1</sup> my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing <sup>1</sup> of your righteousness.**  
<sup>15</sup> O Lord, o- <sup>1</sup> pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- <sup>1</sup> claim your praise.  
<sup>16</sup> **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or <sup>1</sup> I would give it.  
You are not pleased <sup>1</sup> with burnt offering.**  
<sup>17</sup> The sacrifice of God is a <sup>1</sup> troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will <sup>1</sup> not despise. R

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10**

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

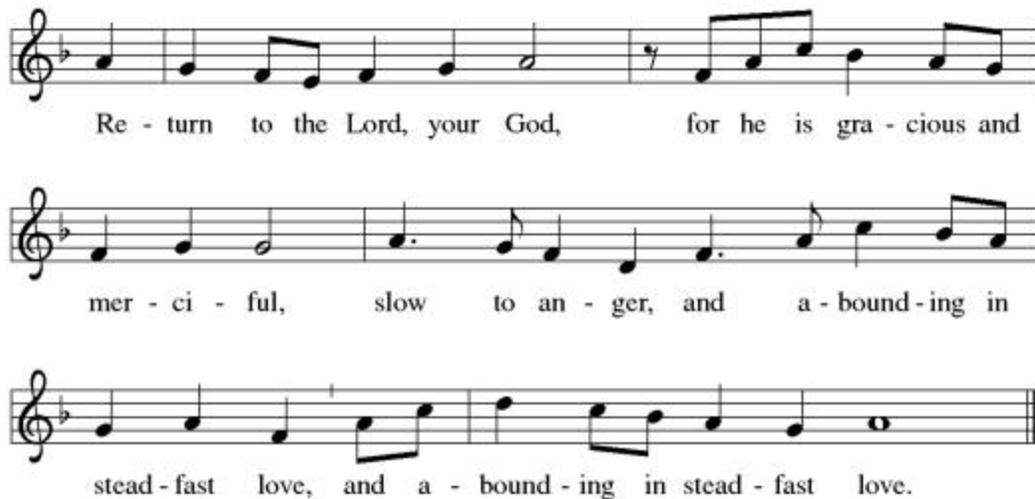
<sup>20b</sup> We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup> As we work together with him, we entreat 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.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, 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: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> in 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 look—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.

The word of the Lord.

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Beware of practicing your righteousness 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 somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces 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 - PASTOR MARY METZGER**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Savior, When in Dust to You* (ELW 601)**

## Savior, When in Dust to You



1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;  
 2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,  
 3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,  
 4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,



when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;  
 by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,  
 by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,  
 by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,  
 by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,  
 by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,  
 oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,



bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
 turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
 lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
 bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.

Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841–1903

### INVITATION TO LENT

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
 who forgives all our sin,  
 whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
 and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead  
 dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

## 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.**

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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world (*places may be named*). Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for (*Martin Luther and*) all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING *Create in Me a Clean Heart (Capers) (ELW 185)***

**Melody**

## Create in Me a Clean Heart

### *Offering Song*

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases connected by slurs. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the syllables.

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 your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me  
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948  
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

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**Words****Create in Me a Clean Heart**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

O God, maker of heaven and earth,

your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **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,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
 Your mercy is everlasting  
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
 to the land of milk and honey.  
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
 Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
 Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
 we remember our Lord's passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
 Bless this feast.  
 Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
 Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
 Breathe new life into us.  
 Send us forth,  
 burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With [name/s and] your holy ones of all times and places,  
 with the earth and all its creatures,  
 with sun and moon and stars,  
 we praise you, O God,  
 blessed and holy Trinity,  
 now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

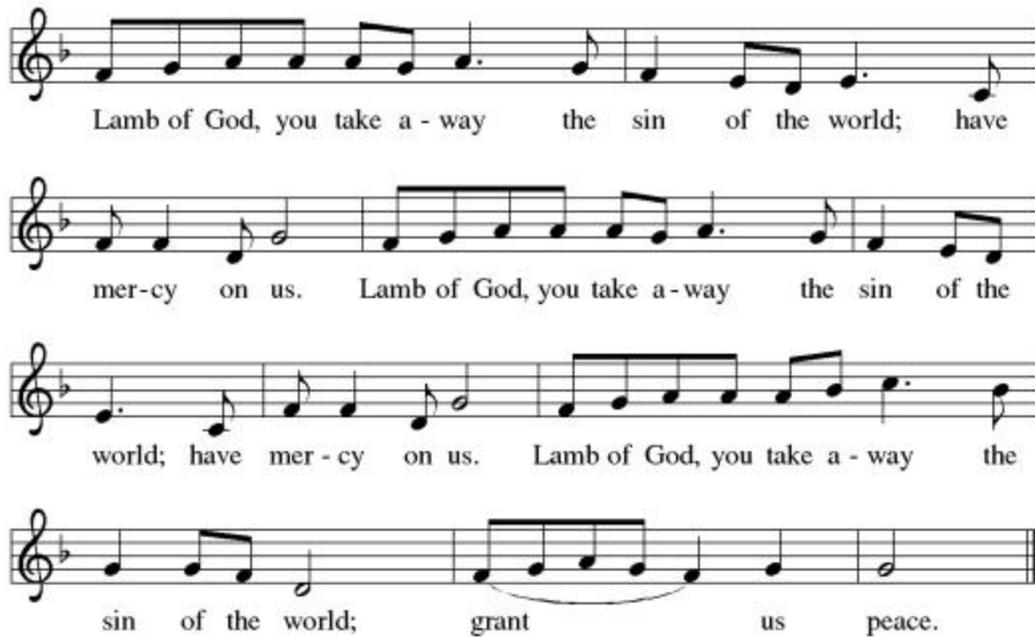
### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table.  
 Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## COMMUNION

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

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## PRAYER

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.**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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