

(We gather in prayer and silence)

### ABOUT THE SERVICE

The mood of this service is one of penitence and reflection upon the quality of one's faith and life. In observance of this penitential discipline we use an ancient "Ash Wednesday Liturgy" in place of our usual confession. At the designated point in the liturgy we shall observe an ancient tradition rooted in Biblical history: The Imposition of Ashes. For those who wish to participate, please proceed to the chancel entrance, as space is available, to receive ashes on the forehead in the sign of the cross.

The ancient practice of placing ashes on the forehead is a symbolic act rich in meaning. Ashes represent death, God's condemnation of sin. They also represent cleansing and renewal, since in ancient times a mixture of ash and water served as a substitute for soap. The ashes are traced on the forehead in the sign of the cross as a remembrance of baptism, when water is used in the same manner.

The pastors' words as the ashes are administered, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," recall the Genesis creation story in which God fashioned humanity from the dust of the earth. In recognition of our dependence on God for life, receiving the ashes is an act of humility and repentance.

### THE SILENT PROCESSIONAL

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*"Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us"*

Wilbur Held

(We Stand)

#### OPENING PSALM

Psalm 51

(Read in Unison)

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.  
<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.  
<sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.  
<sup>15</sup>O LORD, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.  
<sup>16</sup>For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.  
<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.  
<sup>18</sup>Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,  
<sup>19</sup>then you will delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

#### **GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

#### **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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(We Sit)

#### **THE FIRST LESSON**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

<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 our 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. <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; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup> 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. <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.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

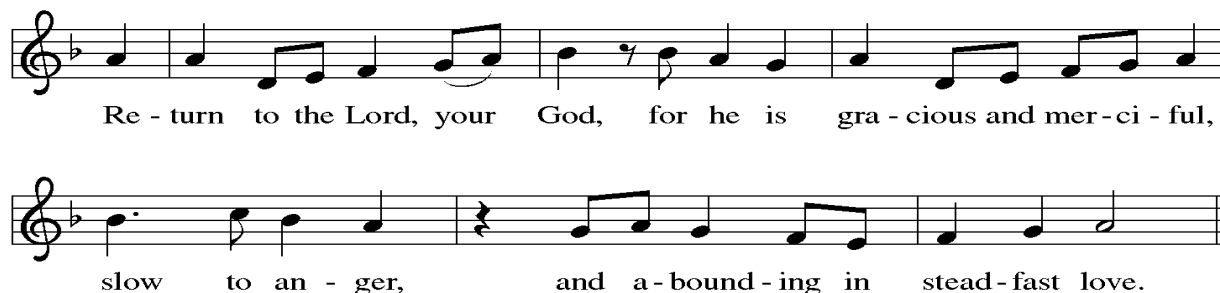
<sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>6:1</sup> As we work together with him, we urge 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.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, 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: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by 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 see—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.**

(We Stand)

## GOSPEL CANTICLE



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <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 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. <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.**

(We Sit)

**SERMON**

"One God"

Pastor Ralph

(We Stand)

**HYMN OF THE DAY***"Savior, When in Dust to You"*

ELW 601



- 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!

**EXHORTATION**

Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with Him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all 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 neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the discipline of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

## CONFESSION

Most Holy and merciful Father:

**We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of Saints in heaven and 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 past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,  
**we confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,  
**we confess to you, Lord.**

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

Our intemperate love of worldly goods 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 judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
**accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us;  
**accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, Lord, for your mercy is great.  
**Amen.**

(We Sit)

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who desire to receive ashes are asked to come forward to the chancel entrance, proceeding down the center aisle and returning to your seats by way of your respective side aisle. The pastors will apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:*

**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

(The congregation is asked to read and meditate on Psalm 90 during the Imposition of Ashes)

## Psalm 90

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations. <sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. <sup>3</sup>You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.' <sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. <sup>5</sup>You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; <sup>6</sup>in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. <sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. <sup>8</sup>You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. <sup>9</sup>For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. <sup>10</sup>The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. <sup>11</sup>Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due to you. <sup>12</sup>So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. <sup>13</sup>Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants! <sup>14</sup>Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. <sup>15</sup>Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. <sup>16</sup>Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. <sup>17</sup>Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands - O prosper the work of our hands!

(We Stand)

## CONCLUSION OF THE CONFESSION

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.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather they 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 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.**

(We Sit)

## OFFERING

God calls us to be generous stewards for the sake of our ministry near and far. You can support our ministry by putting your offering in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, giving online ([sslc.org](https://sslc.org) or use the QR Code) or through the Givelify app. If you would like more details on direct deposit giving please contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, at (803) 359-6562.



Anthem

(12:30)

*"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"*

Wilbur Held

(7:00)

*"O, My God, Bestow Thy Tender Mercy"*

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

O, my God, bestow thy tender mercy, blot out my transgressions; cleanse my sin.

O God, bestow thy tender love, restore me, forgive me, uphold me;  
from all my sins, O hide thy face.

O, my God, bestow thy tender mercy; cleanse my sin, restore the joy;  
forgive me, uphold me, O God, hear me.

I cry to Thee. Hear thou, my prayer. Cast me not away. Take not thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Open thou my lips and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

(We Stand)

## OFFERTORY

ELW 188



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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

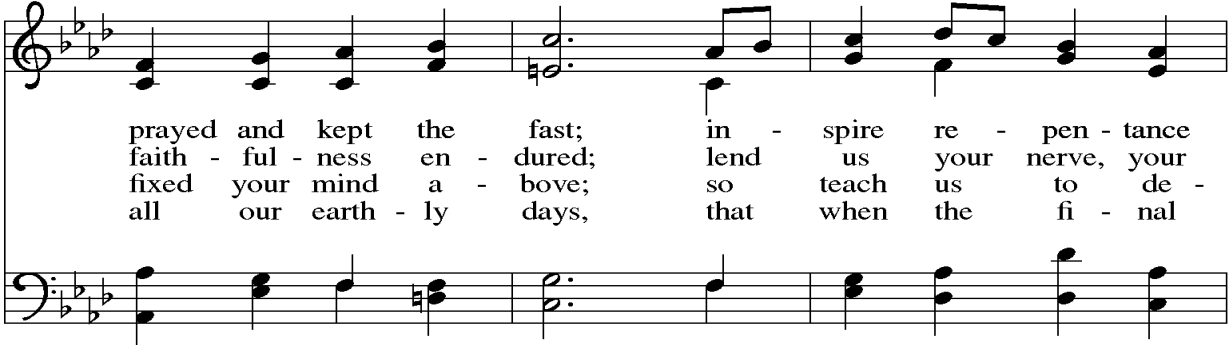
(We Sit)

## RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**C**hrist welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion today at the head of the center aisle. Communion will be brought to the front pews for those who wish to remain seated. Children who commune should be assisted by adults near them. Those unable to partake of wine or wafers are assured of our Lord's presence in, with, and under each element alone. For those with a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request.



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

(We Stand)

**BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS**

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

**BLESSING OF THE CONGREGATION**

May God restore in you the joy of salvation, strengthen your love for your neighbor, and grant you to live in harmony with all creation; and the blessing of almighty God, Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you forever.

**Amen.****DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

(We leave in silence)