

HAINESVILLE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH — E L C A



Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday February 14th, 2024

Worship at 12:00 PM

Pastor Mary Lou Plummer, presiding

Keyboard: Peggy Odegaard

## Ash Wednesday Service

*The service begins in silence*

*(please remain seated)*

### **GREETING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray:

**C** **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**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. <sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? <sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall

raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

R The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

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

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

<sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

<sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.**

**You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;

a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

### **SECOND READING: 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 also 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.

P Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God.

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

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <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.”

P The Gospel of our Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ** (*you may be seated*)

**LENTEN REFLECTION**

Pastor Mary Lou Plummer

(please stand as you are able)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”*

**HYMN #609**

## **Invitation to Lent**

*The assembly is seated.*

**P** 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**

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

*The assembly remains seated. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**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** We have shut our ears 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.

**C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

**P** Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**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 Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after 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.**

### **Imposition of Ashes**

- P 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.
- C **Amen.**
- People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.*
- 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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *(please stand as you are able)*

- P Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

**RESPONSE TO PRAYER**    P *Hear us O God*                    C        **Your mercy is great**

**Tom** (Angermeier), **Devin** (Bartos), **Lyle** (Berndt), **Karen & Del** (Brewer), **Elaine & Jim** (C), **Eugene** (Clark), **Mike & Rina** (Clumpner), **Allan & Betty** (D), **Danielle** (D), **Garrison** (Dixner), **Lynn** (Eskildsen), **Pat** (Fenrich), **Emery** (Freiberg), **Ruth** (Grainger), **Mathilde &**

**Richard** (Hannemann), **Charlotte** (K), **Cindy** (Knapp), **Ellie** (Krull), **Joe** (May), **Ken** (Overland), **Matthew** (Rocque), **Alice** (Rocque-Angermeier), **Laci & Lexi** (S), **Lori** (Snyder), **Eric** (Thorson), **Dave**, **Erik**, and **Sophie**.

### **Sharing God's Peace with One Another**

**P** The Peace of the Lord be with you

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** As an embodied symbol of reconciliation before approaching the table of grace to receive the body and blood of Christ, please share the peace of Christ with those around you at this time. *(you may be seated)*

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**      *"Create in Me"* *(please stand as you are able)*      **HYMN #186**

**C** **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.**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P** Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

### **The Distribution of God's Meal of Grace**

#### **THE COMMUNION LITURGY** *(spoken)*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**P** 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:

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna. in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P** 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.  
**C** **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**  
**P** Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *(you may be seated)*

**COMMUNION HYMN**            *"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"*            **HYMN #592**

## COMMUNION BLESSING *(after the distribution has been completed-please stand)*

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.  
**C** **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**            *"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"*            **HYMN #326**

## THE BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

**P** Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**  
**P** Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Thanks be to God**

## POSTLUDE