

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Resurrection Lutheran Church is called by God, to reach beyond our walls and share the Good News, bringing Christ to the world through Prayer, Love, and Action.

Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

Wandering Heart: “*Tune my heart*”

All are welcome to commune and receive Christ in bread and wine. Please fill out a communion card and give it to the usher when coming forward for Communion.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

PRELUDE

Lenten Prelude, Matthew Corl

WELCOME

OPENING MEDITATION

P As we begin the season of Lent, let us turn inward and tune our hearts. Before an orchestra plays together, they must all tune their instruments—the cacophony of this process may be very loud and create lots of dissonance, but it’s a necessary step in the process of creating harmonies and melodies. And so, this Lent, how can you tune the instrument of your heart so that it aligns with God?

GATHERING SONG

You Sought Me

ERHALT UNS, HERR 8.8.8.8

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Joseph Klug, 1543

My bones and head were bent down low When you
A chance en - coun - ter by the lake I thought
I tried to tell you, "Leave me be - I'm not
When I be - gin to doubt my worth Re - mind

ap - proached me on your own You sought me out and
this must be some mis - take That some - one wrapped in
sure what you see in me." And yet you chose my
me I was formed from earth The ve - ry good cre -

called my name My life would nev - er be the same
ho - li - ness Would will - ing - ly em - brace this mess
net - to fill With all my faults you call me still
a - tion of My God who seeks me out in love

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 51:1-17

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴**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.**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- ¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**
- ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

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

P The holy gospel according to Matthew

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

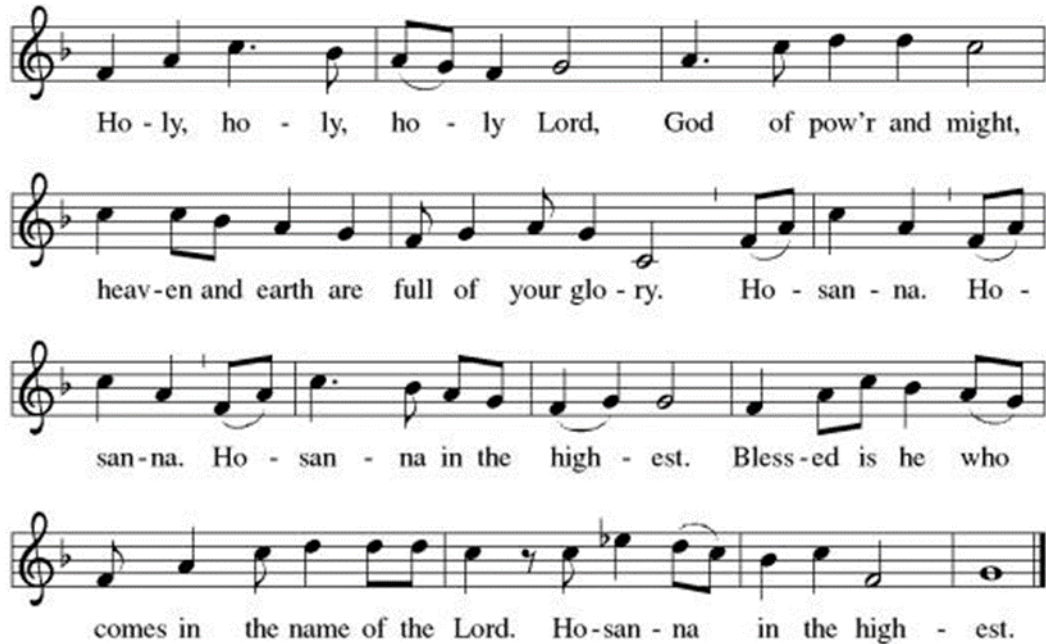
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

TABLE BLESSING

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

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C 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.

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.

SONGS

Amazing Grace, arr. David Cherwien
Here I Am, Lord, arr. Janet Linker
Song of St. Patrick, arr. Janet Linker

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

P Holy Creator, you fashioned us from the dust and called us good, so very good. Your fingerprints remain all over us. Don't let us forget that we come from the earth, we will return to the earth, and every day in between is a gift from you. Gifts aren't meant to be encased in glass boxes and set high on a shelf, lest they show any signs of use. No, you gave us this life in the hopes that we would live it fully, using it up and letting it develop signs of wear and tear, a marvelous patina that proves we have lived.

But some days we'd rather be safe and sound, where nothing can touch us. It's a beautiful life, but the living can be so hard, God. All along our journeys we get scraped knees, hurt feelings, missteps, mistakes, unexpected diagnoses, broken hearts, painful endings, and phone calls that change our lives in an instant.

As the paths of our lives wander through hills and valleys, as we get caught in the rain and the soles of our shoes wear down, tune our hearts to hear your voice everywhere. If we listen closely, we can hear it now. It's in uncontrollable giggles, bird-song at the window, the sizzle of a homemade meal on the stove, and melodies buried deep in our souls.

Yes, indeed, it's a beautiful life. Not because it's perfect, but because it's real.

Journey with us, accompanying us as the path winds. Lift our heads to witness the majesty tucked around every detour. If we look closely, we might see your fingerprints. And if we listen deeply, we just might hear your voice calling us good, so very good.

C Amen.

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.**

SENDING SONG

Ashokan Farewell, Jay Unger

BENEDICTION

P Beloved wanderer,
as you leave this place,
may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.
May you look for God in every face.
May you find the courage to get out of the boat,
to run to the tomb,
and to speak of your faith.
And when the world falls apart,
may you hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."
You are called.
You are blessed.
In both your ups and your downs,
you always belong to God.
Go now in peace.
Go trusting that good news.

C Amen.

Pastor: Darryl Thompson Powell
Director of Music: Henrietta Atkin
Oboist: Wayne Ryerson

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