

St. John's Lutheran Church of Ambridge



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

LCMC
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



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Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2023

Return to the Lord Your God with All Your Heart, for He has Reconciled You to Himself

On Ash Wednesday, we come down from the mountain with Jesus and set our face toward His cross and Passion in Jerusalem. We make our pilgrimage with Him by way of repentance, and thus we return to our dying and rising in Holy Baptism. Christ Jesus, "who knew no sin," became our sin, so that by His death we are released from sin and in His resurrection we "become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). As God has thereby reconciled the world to Himself in Christ, "now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). He has provided the sacrificial Lamb, and He has left "a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering" (Joel 2:14) in the Eucharist. He summons us to return to Him with all our heart because He is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13). We do so with faith and confidence in Him, and so we pray to Him as our Father, give to the needy from a heart of love, and fast for the sake of repentance. (Matt. 6:3-6, 17-18).

Bulletin Key



requests those in the congregation stand if they are able



those in the congregation may sit

Additional announcements located at the end of the bulletin.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
According to your steadfast love;
According to your abundant mercy
Blot out my transgressions.
- ² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin!**
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
And my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you, you only, have I sinned
And done what is evil in your sight,
So that you may be justified in your words
And blameless in your judgment.**
- ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin did my mother conceive me.
- ⁶ **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
And you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
Let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.**
- ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
And uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
And sinners will return to you.

**14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
And my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**

**15 O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth will declare your praise.**

**16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
You will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

**17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

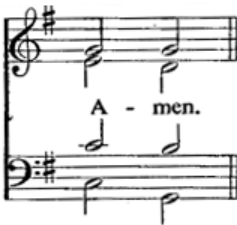
**18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
Build up the walls of Jerusalem;**

**19 then will you delight in right sacrifices,
In burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
Then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as with was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
Amen.**

↑ INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



P: 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 creations, 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 the 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, therefore, 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 Confession

P: Most holy and merciful Father:

C: 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.

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, Lord.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our anger at our frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our intemperate love of worldly good and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: 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.

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For our failure to be good stewards of your creation, and our indifference to the state of what you have entrusted to us.

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.

All who desire to receive the ashes may come forward.

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 the Passion of your Son, our Lord,

C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that 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 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.

C: Amen

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Almighty and ever-lasting 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, 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.

C: Amen

SERVICE OF THE WORD

↓ THE FIRST LESSON

Joel 2: 12-19

P: The first lesson is written in chapter two of Joel beginning at the twelve verse.

¹² “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with the fasting and weeping and mourning.”¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.¹⁴ Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God.¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly.¹⁶ Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast.¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister before the Lord, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, “Spare your people, Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”¹⁸ Then the Lord was jealous for his land and took pity on his people.¹⁹ The Lord replied to them: “I am sending you grain, new wine and olive oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

↓ THE SECOND LESSON

2 Cor. 5: 20b: 6-10

P: The second lesson is written in chapter five of 2 Cor. beginning at verse 20b and 6-10.

^{20b}As though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf; Be reconciled to God.

⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.⁷For we live by faith, not by sight.⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.⁹So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away

from it.¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

↑ **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



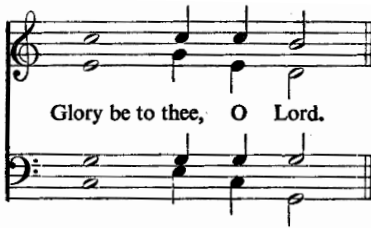
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Org.

↑ **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P: The Holy Gospel is written in chapter six of Matthew beginning at the first verse.

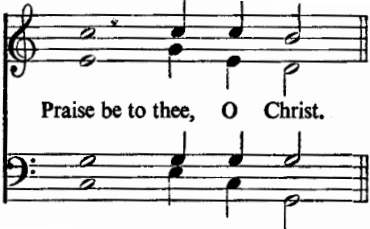


Glory be to thee, O Lord.

¹ “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”²So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees

what is done in secret, will reward you.⁵ And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.¹⁶ When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.¹⁹ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P: Here ends the Gospel for this day.



↓ **THE SERMON**

Sermon Notes:

↓ THE HYMN OF THE DAY O Jesus Thou Art Standing

ST. EDITH (ST. HILDA), 7 6, 7 6, D.
In moderate time

JUSTIN H. KNECHT, 1752-1817
EDWARD HUSBAND, 1843-1908

1. O Je - sus, thou art stand - ing Out - side the fast - closed door,
2. O Je - sus, thou art knock - ing; And lo, that hand is scarred,

In low - ly pa - tience wait - ing To pass the thresh - old o'er.
And thorns thy brow en - cir - cle, And tears thy face have marred.

Shame on us, Chris - tian breth - ren, His Name and sign who bear,
O love that pass - eth knowl - edge, So pa - tient - ly to wait;

O shame, thrice shame up - on us, To keep him stand - ing there!
O sin that hath no e - qual, So fast to bar the gate! A - men.

3 O Jesus, thou art pleading
In accents meek and low,
'I died for you, my children,
And will ye treat me so?'
O Lord, with shame and sorrow
We open now the door;
Dear Saviour, enter, enter
And leave us nevermore. Amen.

William Walsham How, 1823-97

↑ THE OFFERING HYMN

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 thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of
thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

↓ THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Thank You, God, for this high and holy moment in worship and in life when we have something to give that others need. With hearts of praise, O Lord, we dedicate to You these gifts as tokens of our lives and work. Use them, as You use us, to the fulfilling of Your purposes for creation, that we might give glory to You not only in the hearing, but in the doing of Your word. May Your glory be known among us and in all the world. **Amen.**

↑ THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
Very God of very God, begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father.
By whom all things were made.
Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from
heaven;
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures.
And ascended into heaven
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And He shall come again with glory to judge both the
quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life,
Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son.
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped
and glorified.
Who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

↑ THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

As intercessions are spoken, each one concludes:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

↓ COMMUNION HYMN Lord Jesus Christ We Humbly Pray

GRACE CHURCH, L. M.

IGNAZ JOSEPH PLEYEL, 1757-1831

FIRST TUNE

Devotionally

1. Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray, Re - fresh thy
2. Our trem - bling hearts cleave to thy word, All thou hast

peo - ple here to - day; Be - neath these forms of bread and wine,
said thou dost af - ford; All that thou art we here re - ceive,

En - rich us with thy grace di - vine.
And all we are to thee we give. A - men.

3 One bread, one cup, one body, we,
United by our life in thee,
Thy love proclaim till thou shalt come,
To bring thy scattered loved ones home.

4 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
To keep us steadfast to that day,
That each may be thy welcomed guest
When thou shalt spread thy heavenly feast. Amen.

Henry Eyster Jacobs, 1844-1932, a.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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 him thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, Holy Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this the end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, send from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust in you. It is he whom handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat: this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the Remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for All to drink saying:

This is my blood, poured out for you. Do this for the Remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people. And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church, gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.

C: Amen

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

↑ **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: 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.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



↑ AGNUS DEI

Unison

O Christ, thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin

of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, thou Lamb of God,

that tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer -

cy up - on us. O Christ, thou Lamb of God, that tak - est

a - way the sin of the world, grant us thy peace. A - men.

↓ THE COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Members of the congregation will follow the directions of the ushers to come forward and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord. Young children and those who are not baptized are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

P: The body of Christ, given for you.

C: Amen.

P: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: Amen.

↑ THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious blood strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life.

C: Amen.

↑ SONG OF SIMEON (NUNC DIMITTIS)



LORD, now lettest thou thy servant de ' part in ' peace:

* ac ' cording to ' thy ' word;

For mine eyes have ' seen thy sal ' vation:

* which thou hast prepared before the ' face of ' all ' people;

A light to ' lighten the ' Gentiles:

* and the ' glory · of thy ' people ' Israel.

GLORY ' be to the ' Father,

* and to the ' Son · and to the ' Holy ' Ghost;

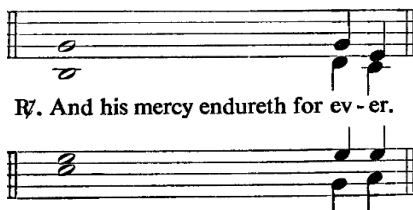
As it ' was in · the be ' ginning,

* is now, and ever shall be, ' world without ' end. A ' men.

↑ PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

Congregation



R̄. And his mercy endureth for ev - er.

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is a single melodic line with a treble clef, containing a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The bottom staff is a bass line with a bass clef, containing a half note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. The lyrics 'R̄. And his mercy endureth for ev - er.' are written below the notes.

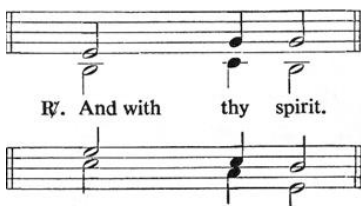
P: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us with this Your salutary gift; and we beseech You, of Your great mercy, to strengthen us through the same, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#), containing a half note A4, followed by a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#), containing a half note A3, followed by a quarter note B3, and a quarter note C4. The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the notes.

P: The Lord be with you



R̄. And with thy spirit.

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is a single melodic line with a treble clef, containing a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The bottom staff is a bass line with a bass clef, containing a half note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. The lyrics 'R̄. And with thy spirit.' are written below the notes.

P: Bless we the Lord.

Ry. Thanks be to God.

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is a treble clef and the bottom staff is a bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics 'Ry. Thanks be to God.' are written below the notes. The first staff has notes for 'Ry.', 'Thanks', 'be', and 'to'. The second staff has notes for 'to', 'God.', and a final note.

↑ THE BENEDICTION

P: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A - men.

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is a treble clef and the bottom staff is a bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the notes. The first staff has notes for 'A', 'men.', and a final note. The second staff has notes for 'A', 'men.', and a final note.

↓ ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOPLADY. 77, 77, 77.

THOMAS HASTINGS, 1784-1872

SECOND TUNE

Devotionally

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in thee;
2. Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;

Let the wa - ter and the blood, From thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for ev - er flow,

Be of sin the dou - ble cure, Cleanse me from its guilt and power.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and thou a - lone. A-men.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to thy Cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee. Amen.

ATTENDANTS TODAY (February 14) Ash Wednesday

Communion Assist	Bob Ferry
Usher Captain	Fred Ross
Lector	Heather
Greeter	