

LUTHERAN CHAPEL



MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

***“THE ALMSGIVING, THE PRAYER, THE FAST
AND VALENTINE’S DAY 2024”***

*Pray. Fast. Give. Humble yourself.
Follow Jesus Christ. He transforms and saves us.*

**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

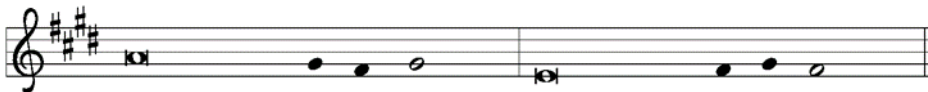
LUTHERAN CHAPEL
FEBRUARY 14, 2024
ASH WEDNESDAY

***BOLD** indicates congregational responses.
* Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.*

GATHER

PSALM 51

(In Unison)



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- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | **stead-fast** love;
in your great compassion blot out | my of-fenses.**
- ² Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**
- ³ For I know | my of-fenses,
and my sin is ev- | er be-fore 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.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mo-ther's womb.**
- ⁶ Indeed, you delight in truth | deep with-in me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep with-in.**
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.**
- ⁸ Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may re-joice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.**
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it with-in me.**
- ¹¹ Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.**

**12 Restore to me the joy of | your sal-
vation and sustain me with your boun- |
ti-ful Spirit.**

**13 Let me teach your ways | to of-
fenders, and sinners shall be re- |
stored to you.**

**14 Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of |
my sal-
vation, and my tongue shall sing |
of your righteousness.**

**15 O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.**

**16 For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**

**17 The sacrifice of God is a | trou-
bled spirit; a troubled and broken heart,
O God, you will | not de-spise.**

**18 Favor Zion with | your good pleasure;
build up the walls | of Je-
rusalem.**

**19 Then you will delight in the appointed sacrifices, in burnt | and whole offerings;
then young bulls shall be offered up- | on your altar.**

**Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son,
and to the | Ho-ly Spirit;
As it was in the be- | ginning is now,
And will be forever, | A-men.**

GREETING

P:The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(In Unison)

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

FIRST READING

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

Because of the coming day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community declares that God is gracious and asks God to spare the people lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

¹Blow 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—

²a 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.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 ¹³rend your hearts and not your 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.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between 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?’ ”

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20b-6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God’s reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Joel 2:13



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.

***GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.

Response after the announcement:



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

[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.

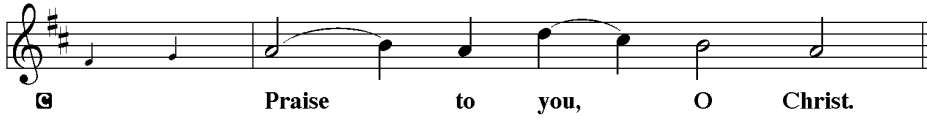
⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father 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.



MESSAGE

“The Almsgiving, the Prayer, the Fast and Valentine’s Day 2024”

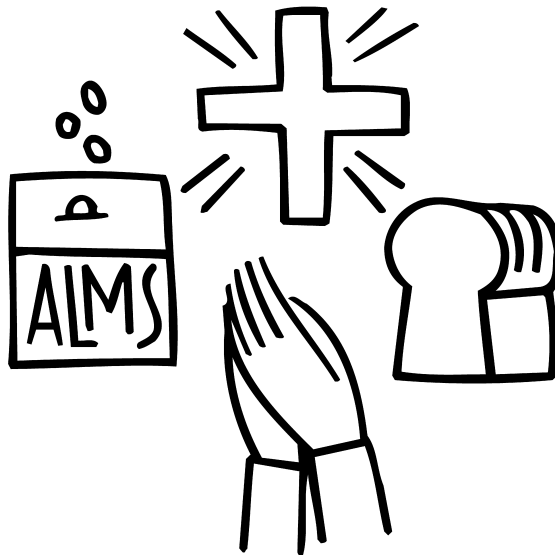
The Spiritual Disciplines of Lent - Almsgiving, Praying, Fasting
and a Word on Biblical Meditation

Love to the End - Martyrdom of St. Valentine along with Love, Honor
and Cherishing the Beloved

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus’ saving power: I don’t like charitable giving. I don’t like praying. I don’t like fasting. Who has time to meditate? I don’t like spiritual disciplines - do I have to do them, really?

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus’ ultimate saving power: Jesus teaches about the gifts and spiritual disciplines of giving, praying and fasting as tools for our spiritual garden. Let us take up the gifts He taught and that the Holy Spirit grows in and among us.

So What? Choose a love offering (Domestic Violence Shelter and Crisis Assistance Ministry both of Gaston County will be ours during Lenten Wednesday Services). Set aside time to pray. Choose a fast. Set aside time to meditate in Christ. We are saved by grace alone and not what we do - but God gives us practices to practice for our own good as we follow Christ, right?





1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

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.

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

HYMN

*“Veni Sancte Spiritus”
(Holy Spirit, come to us)*

Acts 2, Romans 5, 1 Corinthians 12

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Veni Sancte Spiritus". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics are written below the notes: "Ve - ni San - te Spi - ri - tus. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us." The final note of the melody is a dotted half note, which is held over the end of the line.

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

1 Timothy 2:1-4

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

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.**

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

P: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Man of Sorrows, who was tempted and suffered to save us.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Matthew 5:22-24: Ephesians 4:1-3

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

2 Corinthians 13:11

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

C: And also with you.

THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

ANTHEM

CHANCEL CHOIR

“Seek First the Kingdom”

Mary McDonald

Seek first the Kingdom of God. And all these things shall be added unto you.

Child of the Father, we are all His children.

It is His pleasure to give His Kingdom

Wait upon the Lord. Set your heart and mind on that which is above.

Wait upon the Lord, know ye that His word is love.

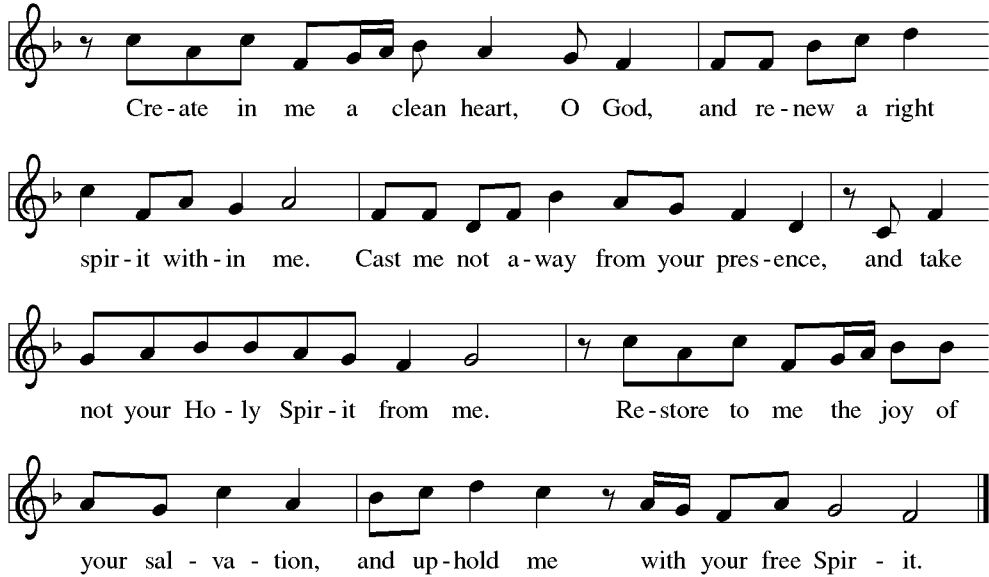
Set your heart and mind on Him who reigns above!

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be.
And where your heart is, there I will be.
For I am the Kingdom and the power, and I am the Father.

***OFFERTORY**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

Psalm 51



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.

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(In Unison)

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

2 Timothy 4:22, Colossians 3:1, Psalm 136

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

***PREFACE FOR THE DAY AND THE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

The image shows a musical score for a preface. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, 1 Corinthians 11

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**

Matthew 6:9-13

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.**

***LAMB OF GOD**

John 1:29

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, grant us peace.

***DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion. Here we receive forgiveness, the gift of abiding in Jesus, the remembrance of His sacrificial love for us on the Cross, and the promise of eternal life (Luke 24:13-35, John 6:22-59, 1 Cor. 11:23-26). Please request grape juice or gluten free bread if needed. Taste and see the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)!

Please take your communion cup as you leave and discard in trashcan.

P: This is the body of Christ given for you. This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Eat This Bread"

ELW #472

Refrain

"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

"Where True Charity and Love Abide"

ELW #642

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING

*THE BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*HYMN

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

ELW #592

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are aligned with the vocal line. The score concludes with a double bar line.

***DISMISSAL**

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

“Ach, Was Soll Ich Sunder Machen”

J. Pachelbel

† † † † † † † †

THOSE SERVING AT LUTHERAN CHAPEL TODAY

Ministers	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor.....	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant.....	Kim Rundzieher
Director of Music.....	Kathie Riebe
Assistant to the Director of Music	Juan Vizcarra
Head Ushers	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman

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