

Ash Wednesday

03-05-2025

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

GATHERING HYMN: [ELW#592 "Just As I Am, without One Plea"](#)

PSALM 51

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

C ²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

P ³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

C 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.**

P ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

C ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

P ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

C ⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

P ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

C ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

P ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

P ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

C ¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

P ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

P ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

C ¹⁸**Favor Zion with your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem.**

P ¹⁹Then you will delight in the appointed sacrifices, in burnt and whole offerings;

C **then young bulls shall be offered upon your altar.**

LUKE 9:51-62

P The holy gospel according to Luke, the ninth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, ⁵³but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE MESSAGE: ([Sermon Audio Link](#))

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#601 "Savior, When in Dust to You"](#)

OFFERING*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Please be 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.

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

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.**

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

P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May 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

The congregation is invited to come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.

After all who desire have received the ashes, the liturgy continues:

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world.

C **By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, 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

SENDING HYMN: [ELW#326 "Bless Now, O God, the Journey"](#)

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.

Announcements

- **Wednesday** Lenten Series and Bread & Soup Dinners starting 3/12/2025 6:00 pm

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291