

# Ash Wednesday

02-14-2024

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

**OPENING HYMN:** [ELW#320 The Glory of these Forty Days](#)

**PSALMODY:** Psalm 51:1-17

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup> For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## PRAYER

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

**1<sup>st</sup> READING:** [Joel 2:1-2, 12-17](#)

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING:** [2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10](#)

**THE GOSPEL:** [Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#)

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** [ELW#328 Restore in Us, O God](#)

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

**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.

### **INVITATION TO LENT**

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.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

O Lord, our God, you gather your church and call us to return to you. Accompany us throughout our Lenten pilgrimage. Create in us clean hearts and renew all the baptized to declare your praise. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, O God. Bring rains to parched places and heal lands affected by a changing climate, that all inhabitants of the earth experience your abundance. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Renew the nations, O God. Give voice to those on the margins and resolve to world leaders who seek to protect those most vulnerable. Loosen the bonds of injustice and bring an end to all violence, oppression, and persecution. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Renew your people, O God. Respond to those who cry out to you in secret or in seclusion. Equip us with compassion to care for those who experience homelessness, food insecurity, economic hardship, and illness especially We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially: Angela Hays, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Elshafei family, Alexis Erdman, Samantha Erdman, the Fleming family, Jeff Fultz, Mary Goehring, Samuel Edward Hawkins Jr., Angela Hayes, Mark Hughes, the Johnson family, Faith Jolly, Robert Karner, Charles Larsen, Charlotte Leer, the McNamara family, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Julie Obie, Peter Olsen, Brenda Penyak, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack, and the family of William Lambert. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Renew this congregation, O God. Inspire our faith formation ministries and those who teach and lead. Invigorate us with lifelong curiosity and wonder as we grow as your disciples. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

O Lord, our God, we give thanks for all your faithful ones of every time and place. Renew us by the example of their lives of prayer and service, and at the last, bring us with them into your everlasting presence. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**SENDING HYMN:** [ELW#324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory](#)

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

## **DISMISSAL**

*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.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Announcements**

- **Wednesday** Lenten Series and Bread & Soup Dinners starting 2/21/2024 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/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/2627291](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/2627291)