

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD  
 Ash Wednesday Services  
 Mark Galbraith, Interim Pastor



### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.*

### WELCOME

*Silence for reflection.*

### PSALM 51

*Refrain:*



1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your merciful love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash me completely from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. *Refrain*
2. My transgressions, truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. *Refrain*
3. Create a pure heart for me, O God; renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence; take not your holy spirit from me. *Refrain*
4. Restore in me the joy of your salvation; sustain in me a willing spirit. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. *Refrain*

### GREETING

The Lord be with you.  
 And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

**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.**

### FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow 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—  
 a 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.

Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend 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.  
Who 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?

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

Between 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?'"

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

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

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## LENTEN ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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.

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

"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. But 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.

"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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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.

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

The gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

## MESSAGE

Pastor Mark Galbraith

## HYMN

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

ELW #359

- 1 Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love we thus are bound.
- 2 With grateful joy and holy fear,  
God's charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and soul  
now love God in return.
- 3 Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;

as members of each body joined,  
in him we are made one.

4 Let strife among us be unknown;  
let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek;  
be his our only peace.

5 Let us forgive each other's faults  
as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well  
in Christian gentleness.

#### INVITATION TO THE DISCIPLINE OF LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole Church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' death and resurrection. 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. You are invited, 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 through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

#### CONFESSION

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most holy and merciful God,  
**we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

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

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

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors  
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.  
**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in  
steadfast love.

Let us receive the bread of life and cup of salvation.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

### COMMUNION HYMN

"Lamb of God"

ELW #336

- 1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,  
But you have sent him from your side  
To walk upon this guilty so  
And to become the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

#### *Refrain*

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God.  
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

- 2 Your gift of love we crucified.  
We laughed and scorned him as he died.  
The humble king we named a fraud  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

- 3 I was so lost, I should have died,  
But you have brought me to your side  
To be led by your staff and rod  
And to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain*

### BLESSING

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

## **DIALOGUE**

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

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior and Lord,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

## **PRAYER**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes might be to us a sign of mortality and penitence, that we may remember it is only by your gracious gift and promise that we are given everlasting life. **Amen.**

*We depart in silence.*