



Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us enter the house of the Lord
Who is full of love and mercy.
Let us bow down in God's temple
And revere the Lord of heaven.
Lead us in righteousness, O God.
Make straight the path ahead of us.

GATHERING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

#793

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r, raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Light of my soul, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: **Holy God, Our humanity is ever present to us on this somber day. May we follow you
closely in this walk towards Jerusalem and learn from the faithfulness of Jesus our savior. Amen**

FIRST READING:

Psalm 5

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL

Luke 9:51-62

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter 9. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Pam Challis

**O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.**

**You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's eternal word.**

**Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.**

**Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.**

INVITATION TO THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

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.

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. [pause for silent reflection]

Most holy and merciful God, **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.**

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 Jesus served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. 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. Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. 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. Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING HYMN

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

#326

**Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.**

**Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound;
together we are seeking the road where faith is found.**

**Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Stay safe and be safe. Remember the poor. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE