**SALT Parish**



**Faith Lutheran Church, Culver**

**Ash Wednesday**

**March 5, 2025**

**6:30 pm**

**Greeting**

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

**Prayer of the Day**

***C: Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

**Psalm 51:1-17**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Gospel**: **Luke 18:9-14**

**9**He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: **10**“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11**The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12**I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ **13**But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ **14**I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

**Sermon *“What Is Lent?”***

**Hymn of the Day *“Be Thou My Vision”*** *Hymn #793*

Vs. 1 Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
 Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
 Thou my best thought, by day and by night,
 Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Vs. 2 Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
 I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
 Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower,
 Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Vs. 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
 Thou, and Thou only, first in my heart,
 great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Vs. 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

**Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. 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, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**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, 9 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 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**

(Following the Imposition of Ashes)

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, of 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**

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Encourage believers who hold the church's doors open to those who have felt excluded. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief especially those we name in our hearts. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer**

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Prayer** *Page 254*

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. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace, remember the poor.

***C: Thanks be to God.***