

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025

12:00 & 7:00 p.m.



LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP

We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Psalm 51:1-17 (Read responsively)

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

**²Wash 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.

**⁴Against 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.

**⁶Indeed, 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.

**⁸Let 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.

**¹⁰Create 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.

**¹²Restore 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.

**¹⁴Rescue 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.

**¹⁶For 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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. . . 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.

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow 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—
²a 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.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend 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.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between 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

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as 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.

Gospel Acclamation

☐ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel Reading

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 6th chapter.

☐ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

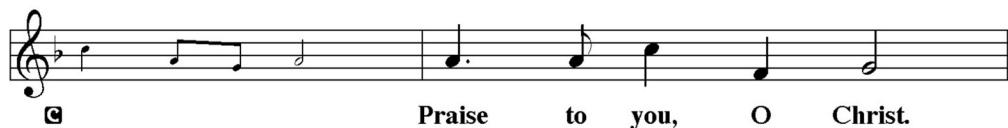
²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Hymn: “My Song is Love Unknown”

LBW 94

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| <p>1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior’s love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?</p> <p>2 He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend;
who at my need his life did spend!</p> | <p>3 Sometimes they strew his way
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry,
and for his death they thirst and cry.</p> <p>4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and ’gainst him rise;
themselves displease, and ’gainst him rise.</p> |
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Invitation to Lent

Brothers & sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with God, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of God's creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve God, who does not desire us to come under judgment, but to turn to God and live. As disciples of the Lord, Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love – the discipline of Lent – help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

All are invited to come forward and receive ashes. Pastor will mark your forehead.

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return”
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,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

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.
Amen.

Hymn: “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

WOV 734

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and
watching,
watching for you and for me.

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is
pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his
mercies,
mercies for you and for me? **Refrain**

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has
promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and
pardon,
pardon for you and for me. **Refrain**

The Offering

Please leave your offering on our website: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home>

Prayers of Intercession

(Each petition ends with... God in your mercy, congregation responds: **receive our prayer.**)

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and + give you peace.
Amen.

Hymn: "O Lord, Throughout these Forty Days"

LBW 99

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| 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days
you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past. | 3 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. |
| 2 You strove with Satan, and you won;
your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust
in God's eternal word. | 4 Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise. |

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God

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GUEST REGISTER: If you are visiting with us today, please sign our Guest Book in the narthex.

OUR MISSION - FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- + To **gather** as God's people and nurture one another
- + To **know** the Word of God
- + To **grow** in faith, love, and service
- + To **go** into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ



SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor

The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen

Music Director

Michael Dettra

Lay Reader: 12:00 PM

Open

Lay Reader: 7:00 PM

George Henry

CONTACTING PASTOR MATT

If you need to speak with Pastor Matt when he is not in the office, particularly in the case of a pastoral emergency, please feel free to call his cell at 215-859-3778 or email him at pastor@adventrichboro.org. If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.

THURSDAY EVENING LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AND SERVICES

Thursdays, March 13 through April 10

6:00 PM: Soup Supper

7:00 PM: Lenten Service: "Baptismal Call"

During the season of Lent, gather at Advent on Thursday evenings. Soup supper and fellowship will be followed by a Lenten worship service focused on Baptismal Call.



- For the Soup Supper, please sign up in the narthex to bring soup, bread or drinks.
- The Lenten service will also be available via Zoom and Facebook. The link for the service will be sent via email the week prior to the first Soup Supper.