

Solemn Observance of Ash Wednesday  
February 22, 2023  
Order of Worship: Holy Communion, Setting Four

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**Congregational responses are printed in bold type.**

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PRELUDE & BELLS *We observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation.*

WELCOME *congregation responds and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

✠BRIEF RITE FOR CONFESSION & REPENTANCE✠

*We stand*

PSALM 51

*read in unison*

**<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

**<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
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 only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.**

**<sup>5</sup>And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgment.**

**<sup>6</sup>Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

**<sup>7</sup>For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

**<sup>8</sup>Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

**<sup>9</sup>Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

**<sup>10</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

**<sup>11</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**<sup>12</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**<sup>13</sup>Give me the joy of your saving help again,  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

*12PM continues with "Glory to the Father..."*

<sup>14</sup>I shall teach your ways to the wicked,  
and sinners shall return to you.

<sup>15</sup>Deliver me from death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

<sup>16</sup>Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

<sup>17</sup>Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

<sup>18</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

<sup>19</sup>Be favorable and gracious to Zion,  
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>20</sup>Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt-offerings  
and oblations;  
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

*12PM & 7PM*

#### EXHORTATION

Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his 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 our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him 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 our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

#### CONFESSION & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Most holy and merciful Father: **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own 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, Lord.**

We have been deaf 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, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, **we confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, **we confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, **we confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, **we confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, **we confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need & suffering, & our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen**

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*We sit as the imposition of ashes follows. You may read Psalm 90 (#90) during the imposition.*

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward, single file, and stand before the altar. The ministers apply ashes to the forehead of each person:*

*After all who desire ashes have received them, we stand and conclude the confession.*

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 Lord,

**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*We sit and keep silence for meditation.*

✠HOLY COMMUNION✠

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.**

WORD

Next Steps Memory Verse: JOEL 2:13

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

FIRST READING: JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

7PM only

<sup>1</sup>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 <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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?'"

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

RESPONSE & MEDITATION: PSALM 103:8-14

7PM only

<sup>8</sup>The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

**<sup>9</sup>He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.**

<sup>10</sup>He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

**<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

**<sup>13</sup>As a father cares for his children,  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

<sup>14</sup>For he himself knows whereof we are made;\*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

*We stand.* GOSPEL VERSE: Joel 2:13

*Tune: p151*

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.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>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!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

#801

“Change My Heart, O God”

*We sit.* SERMON

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

**40 Days with the Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer on behalf of all his people.

*A brief silence*

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us. As you are holy, make us holy. As you are mighty, give us strength to turn from sin to live for you alone. As you are immortal, by the death and resurrection of our Savior Christ, lead us out of death to life.

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

Have mercy upon your church. Purge it of false teaching, uncharitable words, and unholy actions. Fill it with your Holy Spirit, and use it to grant the joy of your saving help to all repentant sinners.

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

Have mercy upon all who are persecuted on account of your Jesus. Keep them steadfast in faith, patient in suffering, persistent in prayer, and gracious in forgiving. Soften the hearts of all who despise Christ. Grant them repentance and true faith.

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

Have mercy on seminary and church college professors, on Christian school and preschool teachers and aides, and on everyone seeking to follow Jesus as his disciple. Give wisdom to their minds, eloquence to their tongues, and love to their souls, for you and for all they serve.

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

Have mercy on this congregation. Cleanse it from everything that obscures your love for us, and for those to whom we minister. We pray for our mission to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus, to support Solid Rock our mission in action, and that you send us adults for baptism. Grant that we may prefer nothing whatsoever to Jesus Christ, and to sharing his forgiveness and salvation with others.

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

Have mercy upon all converts, all who are preparing for baptism at Easter, and for all whose faith wavers and dims because of doubts or despair. Give them a double portion of your Spirit, and bring them into your loving embrace.

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

Have mercy upon the nations of the world and their rulers, especially our own. Lead them in paths of righteousness, justice, and mercy. Conform them to your will as they care for the lives entrusted to them. Never let them, or us, forget the needs of the poor, the widow, and the orphan; the dispossessed and unemployed; the sick and forgotten; the abused and the unjustly imprisoned. Give us the means and the will to ease their burden.

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

Have mercy on all who stand in harm's way in defense of life and liberty. Strengthen them in every virtue that increases concord, establishes safety, and protects innocent lives.

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

Have mercy on all who suffer in body, mind, heart or soul – especially those who crave our prayers, including: {List}. Refresh their spirits, renew their hope, and restore their joy.

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

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, keep in your care our beloved dead. Comfort those whose grief runs deep. We pray for the families of {List}. Help us to encourage one another throughout this troubled life. Keep us steadfast in faith, constant in hope, and ardent in love. Lead us from death into the eternal life you have prepared for all whom you have redeemed through the passion of your Son, the Savior of the world.

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

Into your hands, gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also, with you.**

*We briefly greet those in our row with the words "Peace be with you."*

*We sit.* OFFERING, OFFERTORY SONG & PRAYER- *Giving back to God*



*First- and second-time guests are not expected to give a monetary offering; your Connection Card and your presence this morning are your gifts. Safe, secure & easy electronic giving is available on our website [stpeterhallettsville.org/giving](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/giving) or by scanning this code.*

*We stand* #186

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

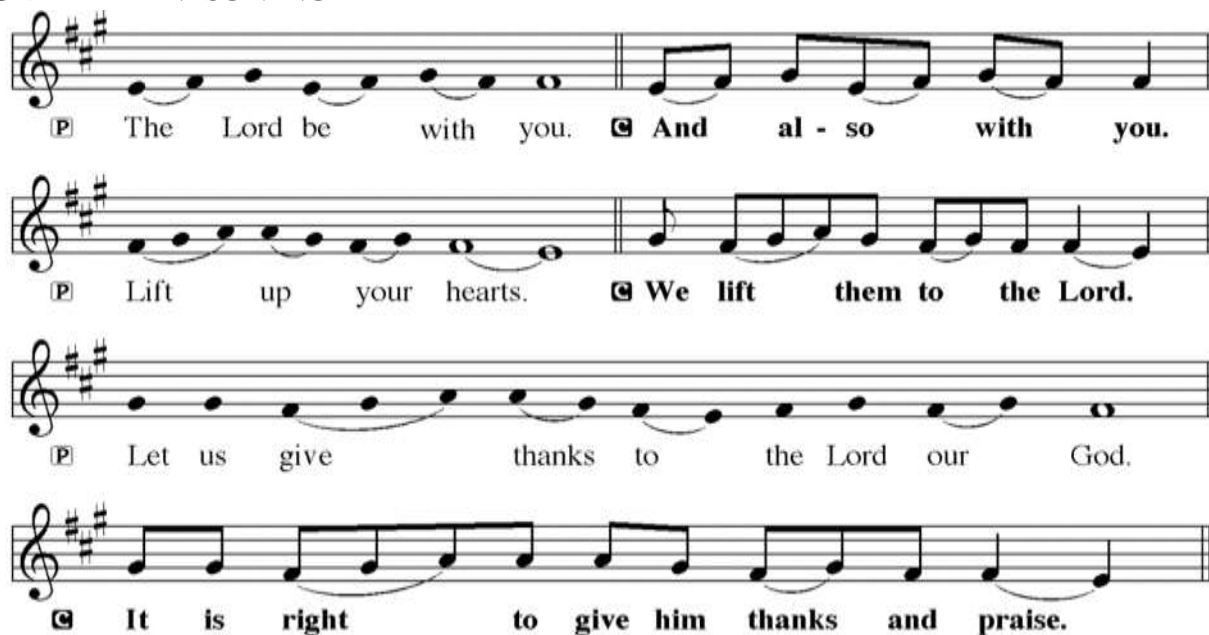


Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, king of the universe. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, 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, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: P The Lord be with you. A And al - so with you. P Lift up your hearts. A We lift them to the Lord. P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. A It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*No "Holy, Holy, Holy" today*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give you thanks, Father...now and forever. **Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

## *We sit.* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who have received Trinitarian baptism, trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.*

*Communion administration occurs by row at the head of the center aisle.*

*To receive the host, extend your hand, palm up; the assisting minister will allow you to dip it into the chalice. For those unable to consume either bread or wine, the Church affirms the Lord's full presence in each element alone. Once you have received the elements, return to your seat by the side aisles. If you do not desire to receive Holy Communion, you may remain seated.*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Lamb of God"

p154 John 1:29



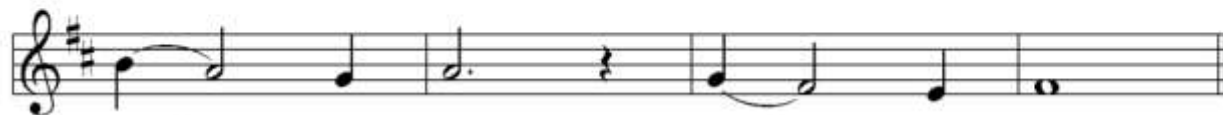
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*We stand* POST-COMMUNION BLESSING, SONG, & PRAYER

May the body and blood...keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

“Lord Now You Let Your Servant”

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -  
 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the  
 na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,  
 and will be for - ev - er. A - men

Let us pray... Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

BENEDICTION

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.**

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Our mission is Christ's mission – "I will build my church"  
by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

**Hymn of the Day: "Change My Heart" (#801)**

Text & Music by Carlos Rosas

***Refrain***

**Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.**

**You are the potter;**

**I am the clay.**

**Mold me and make me;  
this is what I pray. *Refrain***