

CHRIST  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
ZIONSVILLE



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**Ash Wednesday**

**February 14, 2024**

*All members and guests, please fill out the Welcome Form found at the end of your row and pass it on to your neighbor. The pastoral and spiritual care of the members of Christ Church is very important to us. In order to care for all of you, we need to know who is present and who is not. So, please take a moment to sign the pad. The Welcome Forms will be picked up by the ushers at the end of the service.*

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

**PRELUDE**

***Siciliano***

**Bach**

## LENTEN PRAYER & GATHERING RITE

### GATHERING SONG

### ***God of Creation***

*Soloist sings all verses. Congregation and Soloist sing the refrain (printed)*

Soloist: God of creation, Giver of life, be the light in our darkness; grant us peace in our strife. Show us your mercy; give us new birth. You have made us your children to bear fruit on the earth.

#### **Congregation (refrain):**



Soloist: Lord, our Redeemer, Healer of souls, be the hope that restores us; with your touch make us whole.

Here we partake in your feast of love; give us strength on our journey with your body and blood.

#### **Congregation (refrain):**



Soloist: Spirit most holy, Comforter blest, be the fire that consumes us and our hearts' welcome guest.

Form us, renew us, call us by name. Raise us up from the ashes and create us again.

**Congregation (refrain):**



**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The congregation sits or kneels. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**C Amen.**

P If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

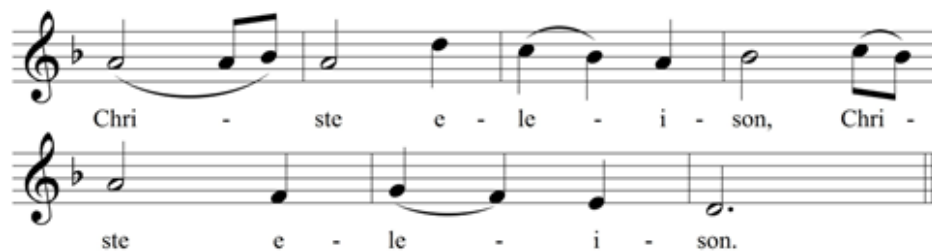
**SONG OF FORGIVENESS** *Soloist sings verses and congregation sings printed refrain.*

Soloist: Lord Jesus Christ, pour out your compassion; grant your people pardon:

**Congregation (refrain):**



Soloist: Lord Jesus Christ, bring healing and wholeness; give your people comfort:

**Congregation (refrain):**

Soloist: Lord Jesus Christ, the source of forgiveness, show your people mercy:

**Congregation (refrain):**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS**

P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, + God forgives you all your sins. Almighty God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

**C Amen.**

**Soloist and Congregation sing together:**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord is with you

**C And also with you**

**P** 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. **C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **FIRST READING      Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

**L** A reading from Joel.

<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?'"

L Word of God. Word of Life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 51**

~ Soloist ~



- <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
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 offenses,  
and my sin is ev-er before me.
- <sup>4</sup>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.
- <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- <sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
- <sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- er than snow.
- <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir-it within me.
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- it from me.
- <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun-tiful Spirit.
- <sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re-stored to you.
- <sup>14</sup>Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
- <sup>15</sup>O Lord, o-pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- claim your praise.
- <sup>16</sup>For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
- <sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

**SECOND READING****2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10**

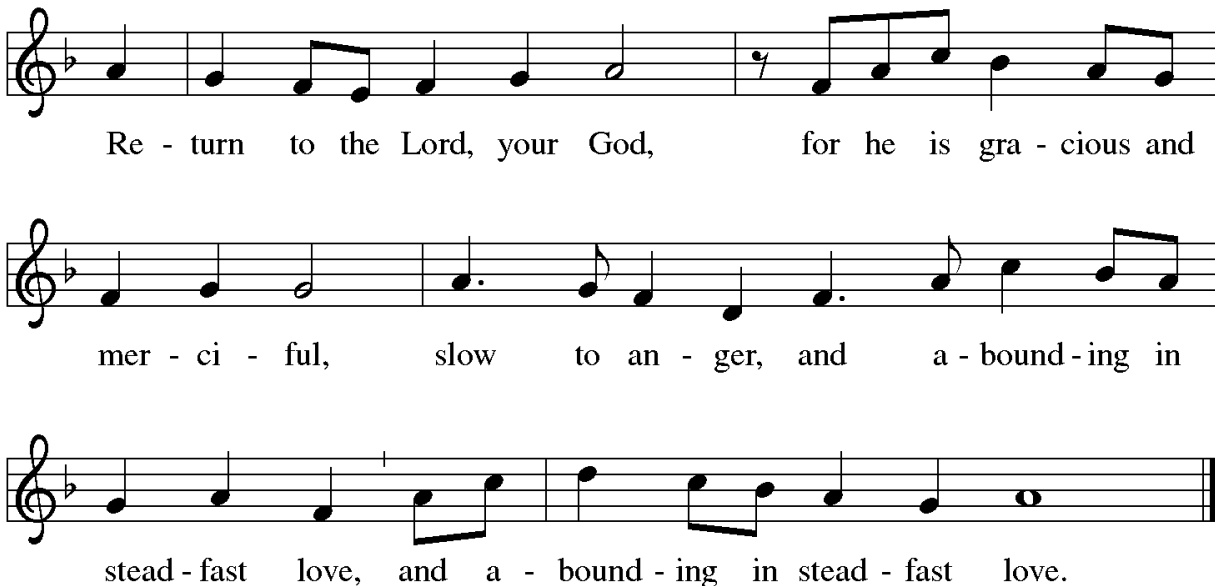
L A reading from 2 Corinthians.

<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.

L Word of God. Word of Life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>"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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Wes Smith**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***Be Thou My Vision***

**ELW 793**



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead\*.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\*\* Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use. \*\* meaning the church universal

## **THE PRAYERS**

P Relying on God's promise to reconcile all things, let us offer prayers for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

P You beckon us to return to you, unwavering God. Infuse the church with a renewed spirit and purify the hearts of your people. Empower those who proclaim your gospel through both word and deed. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is abundant.**

P You sustain your creation, benevolent God. Provide everything necessary for life to thrive. Safeguard endangered species and delicate habitats. Teach us to tread lightly upon the earth and honor it as our home. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is abundant.**

P You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Reconstruct cities and homelands ravaged by war. Extend welcome, aid, and safety to refugees. Bless negotiations that lead to enduring peace among nations. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is abundant.**

P You care for all people, loving God. Heal those scarred by violence, addiction, or any form of trauma. Console those who grieve and bring relief to those in pain. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is abundant.**

P You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in service to our neighbors and in the pursuit of justice. We pray for caregivers and individuals who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness. This evening we pray especially for **Andrea, Michael, Martha, Kat, Dorothy, Marilyn, Mimi, Mike, Steve, Theresa, Jonny, Janice, Patrick, Pete, LCFS** and for all those we now name in our hearts or in the presence of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is abundant.**

P You redeem us from death, faithful God. We express gratitude for those who served you in the church. Lead us, along with all the saints, into eternal joy. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is abundant.**

P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen.**

### **GREETING OF PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord is with you always.

**C And also with you.**

### **VOLUNTARY**

***Ashes to Ashes***  
~Sanctuary Choir~

**Schutte**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**C Amen.**

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES & HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

P Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ☩ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

**C Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

***O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days***

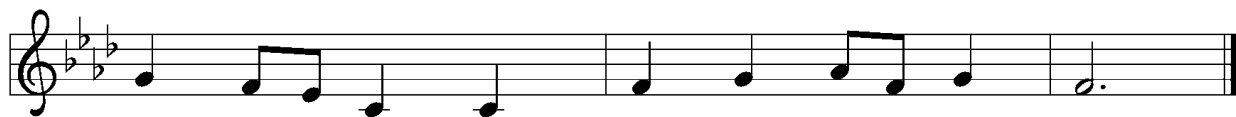
**ELW 319**



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

## DISMISSAL

A Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*My Jesus*

**Thompson**

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## SERVING US AT WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Pastor: Rev. Wesley Smith, III  
Director of Music & Organist: Rhonda Blacklock

**Cantor:** Bill McClanahan  
**Lector:** Barbara Burkhardt  
**Usher:** Connie Steinhart  
**Greeter:** John Burkhardt  
**Communion Assistants:** Angie Eugenio  
**Altar Guild:** Deb Gates, Chris Emsley, Sue Haughton

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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