

Ash Wednesday
**“You Meant It for Evil,
But God Meant It for Good”**

February 14, 2024
11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

The familiar words of the Patriarch Joseph, “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good” (*Genesis 50:20 ESV*) capture the uniqueness of Luke’s account of Jesus’s suffering, death, and resurrection. Enemies, faithless disciples, hapless crowds, pragmatic powerbrokers, and Satan himself are all arrayed against the perfectly innocent Son of God. Through them, one evil purpose comes to pass: Jesus’ destruction. God the Father, however, puts their plan to use and then overturns it in the victory that no one expected.

PRELUDE

“From Depths of Woe I Cry to You”

setting by Alfred Fedak

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: We begin our Lenten journey toward the cross.

People: We follow Jesus though the wilderness.

Pastor: We commit ourselves to prayer.

People: We commit ourselves to serving God and our neighbors.

Pastor: We remember our mortality.

People: We remember God's mercy.

Pastor: For as Adam, we came from the dust,

People: and to dust we shall return.

Pastor: As Adam, we have sinned,

People: and we need God's forgiveness.

CONFESSION

Psalm 51:1-12

Pastor: Our heavenly Father knows our frailty and our need for forgiveness, life, and salvation. He invites us to return to Him with broken and contrite hearts.

People: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

People: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Pastor: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

People: **Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

Pastor: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

People: **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Pastor: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.

People: **Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

People: **Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

People: **and uphold me with a willing spirit. Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: Come forward as you so desire to receive a cross of ashes on your forehead in token of your sincere repentance before God.

Each person in attendance is invited to come forward in single file and receive the sign of the cross in ashes upon their forehead. If you do not wish to receive the ashes, you may spend the time in silent meditation or prayer, or come forward to receive the words of God first spoken in the Garden of Eden: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The ashes upon our foreheads declare what is true. Without the forgiveness of our God, we are hopeless. The shape of the ashes upon our foreheads also declares what is true. God sent His only Son to die in our place. Because of His death and resurrection, we have the forgiveness of sins and hope. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

HYMN

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.
- 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful Father, You freely forgive those who, as David of old, acknowledge and confess their sins. Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12-19

¹² "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." ¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. ¹⁴ Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing-- grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly.

¹⁶ Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' "

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¹⁸ Then the LORD will be jealous for his land and take pity on his people. ¹⁹ The LORD will reply to them: "I am sending you grain, new wine and oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

^{20b} We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹ As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the
twenty second chapter:

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 22:1-13

¹ Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, ² and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. ³ Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. ⁴ And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. ⁵ They were delighted and agreed to give him money. ⁶ He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." ⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. ¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there." ¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

SERMON

You Meant It for Evil, but God Meant It for Good

Please stand

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

ANTHEM

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

Michael Myrick

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a faithful spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from Your presence,
Do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain in me a willing spirit.*

*Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And the lost will return to You.
Deliver me from guiltiness, O God of my salvation,
And my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance,
And my lips will declare Your praise.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a faithful spirit within me.*

Text from Psalm 51:10-15

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For peace and salvation, for reconciliation and unity,
let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For endurance and encouragement, let us pray to the
Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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Leader: For pastors, teachers, and all ministers and leaders in Your Church, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who labor in difficult or dangerous vocations, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For favorable weather and the nourishment of Your creation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who have not known the light of Christ or have fallen away into the darkness of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all those who suffer illness and grief, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.

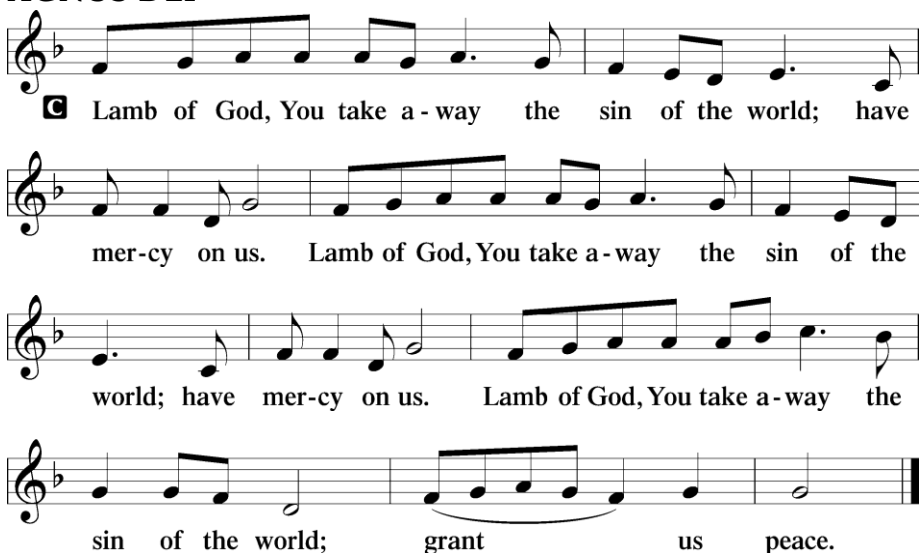
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI



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.

If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle.

When the wine is distributed, individual glasses will be offered first, then the common cup. Communicants may take whichever is preferred. If taking the individual glass, please keep the glass visible so that the communion assistant with the common cup will know who has already communed.

Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion tray for those who have a sensitivity to the alcohol in wine.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

563 Jesus, thy Blood and Righteousness

915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

423 Jesus Refuge of the Weary

POSTLUDE

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

setting by Ryan Meyer

Serving at Chapel

Preacher:		Theodore Laesch
Liturgists:	11:00 a.m.	Brett Arrasmith
	6:30 p.m.	Ellory Glenn
Organist & Accompanist:		Ryan Meyer
Choir:		Choral Singers
Acolyte:	6:30 p.m.	Jonah Meyer

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