

**St. John Lutheran Church and School  
Champaign, IL**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 17, 2021**

**Lenten Midweek Series: “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”**

**Divine Service III**

*\*stand as you are able*

Enter in Silence

\*Ash Wednesday Litany

P O Lord,

**C have mercy.**

P O Christ,

**C have mercy.**

P O Lord,

**C have mercy.**

P O Christ,

**C hear us.**

P God the Father in heaven,

**C have mercy.**

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**C have mercy.**

P God the Holy Spirit,

**C have mercy.**

P Be gracious to us.

**C Spare us, good Lord.**

P Be gracious to us.

**C Help us, good Lord.**

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;

by Your holy nativity;

by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;

by Your agony and bloody sweat;

by Your cross and passion;

by Your precious death and burial;

by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

P In all time of our tribulation;  
in all time of our prosperity;  
in the hour of death;  
and in the day of judgment:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

P We poor sinners implore You

**C to hear us, O Lord.**

P To prosper the preaching of Your Word;  
to bless our prayer and meditation;  
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;  
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To draw all to Yourself;  
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;  
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken,  
the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers;  
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;  
and to have mercy on us all:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To turn our hearts to You;  
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;  
and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C we implore You to hear us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ,

**C hear us.**

P O Lord,

**C have mercy.**

P O Christ,

**C have mercy.**

P O Lord,

**C have mercy. Amen.**

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

\*Invocation, Confession, Absolution, p.184

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

\*Psalm 51:1-3, 6-8; Antiphon Psalm 51:17 (*responsively by half verse*)

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Have mercy on me, O God,

**according to your steadfast love;**

according to your abundant mercy

**blot out my transgressions.**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

**and cleanse me from my sin!**

For I know my transgressions,

**and my sin is ever before me.**

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

**and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness;

**let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

**Glory be 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.**

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

\*Kyrie, p.186

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

\*Salutation, p. 189

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

\*Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:17-24

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup> And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,

‘You shall not eat of it,’

cursed is the ground because of you;

in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;

and you shall eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face

you shall eat bread,

till you return to the ground,

for out of it you were taken;

for you are dust,

and to dust you shall return.”

<sup>20</sup> The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” <sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

<sup>20b</sup> We implore 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> Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup> We put 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 commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup> by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Reading

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter. (1-6, 16-21)

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

<sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>that your fasting may not be seen 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 lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Hymn 544** *O Love, How Deep*

1 O Love, how deep, how broad, how high, Beyond all thought and fantasy,  
That God, the Son of God, should take Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

2 He sent no angel to our race, Of higher or of lower place,  
But wore the robe of human frame, And to this world Himself He came.

3 For us baptized, for us He bore His holy fast and hungered sore;  
For us temptation sharp He knew; For us the tempter over-threw.

4 For us He prayed; for us He taught; For us His daily works He wrought,  
By words and signs and actions thus Still seeking not Himself but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed, For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
He bore the shameful cross and death; For us He gave His dying breath.

6 For us He rose from death again; For us He went on high to reign;  
For us He sent His Spirit here To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

△7 All glory to our Lord and God For love so deep, so high, so broad;  
The Trinity whom we adore Forever and forevermore.

Sermon “*High Love, Down in the Dust*”

\*Apostles' Creed, p.192

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

\*Lord's Prayer

\*Collect

\*Salutation and Benedicamus, p. 201

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** **hanks be to God.**

\*Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C** **Amen, amen, amen.**

**Closing Hymn 616** *Baptismal Waters Cover Me*

- 1 Baptismal waters cover me As I approach on bended knee;  
My Father's mercy here I plead, For grievous sins of thought and deed.
- 2 I look to Christ upon the tree, His body broken there for me;  
I lay before Him all my sin, My darkest secrets from within.
- 3 Lord, may Your wounded hand impart Your healing to my broken heart;  
Your love alone can form in me A heart that serves You joyfully.
- 4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shepherd speaks, but You are  
heard;  
Through him your hand now stretches out, Forgiving sin, destroying doubt.
- 5 Baptismal waters cover me; Christ's wounded hand has set me free.  
Held in my Father's strong embrace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

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Serving:

Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Jeff Caithamer

Organist: Keith Williams

Videographer: Lou Ann

***WELCOME TO ST. JOHN!*** *Our congregation is a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, a family of congregations who pledge themselves to teach and to believe the same doctrines. Guests desiring to learn more about our beliefs are asked to make an appointment to speak with our pastor.*