

+ Ash Wednesday +

Through the words of the prophet Joel, God called to His people and commanded that they turn from their sinful ways and return to Him for His grace and blessings. Lent is a time for listening and responding to the call to return to the God who has ever been faithful to His people. "Return to the Lord, your God" is more than a verse sung as part of the liturgy. It is a heartfelt directive for our lives.

PRELUDE

BELLS

ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS

OPENING HYMN

"O Christ, You Walked the Road"

#424

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 51:1-7 ESV

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

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

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

C: 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.

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

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

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

IMPOSITION OF ASHES - *All are invited to come forward and receive the sign of the cross made in ashes on their forehead. This mark serves as a reminder of our mortality, a symbol of our sorrow over sin and our need for a Savior.*

#611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

#606 "I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pg 151 LSB

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12-19 (ESV)

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even

nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. The LORD answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

LENTEN VERSE

"Return to the Lord, your God"

pg 157 LSB

GOSPEL READING

Luke 22:1-13 (ESV)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the twenty-second chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd. Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

#423

SERMON

"You Meant it for evil, but God meant it for good"

OFFERTORY

"What Shall I Render"

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+ Service of the Sacrament +

PREFACE

pg 160 LSB

SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

#435 "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

#428 "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow"

#887 "Now the Light Has Gone Away"

DISMISSAL

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All midweek lenten sermons are based on:

"You Meant it for Evil, but God Meant it for Good",

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