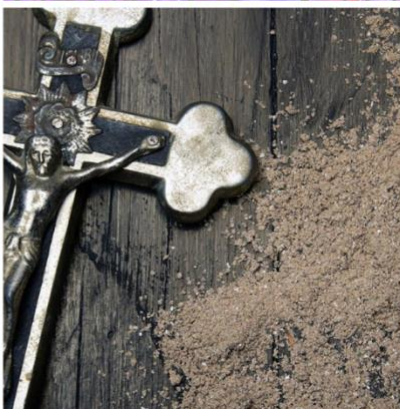


Resurrection Lutheran Church

New Life in the Living Word + For Now + Forever

1735 E Main Street - Mankato, MN | 507-345-4455 | www.resurrectionmankato.org



Ash Wednesday

Return to the Lord

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

DIALOGUE OF PREPARATION

P: Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (*Joel 2:13*)

C: 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.

P: Brothers and sisters, our Lord Jesus said: "If any would come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (*Mark 8:34*)

C: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. (*Psalms 23:4*)

P: Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus — the pioneer and perfecter of our faith — who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (*Hebrews 12:1-2*)

C: Lord, we believe; help us in our unbelief. (*Mark 9:24*)

PRAYER OF THE NIGHT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and Everlasting God,

C: you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Joel 2:12-17

True repentance, proclaimed the prophet, comes from a contrite heart, not from outward signs of grief such as the tearing of garments. God calls Israel to return to him who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love for all generations.

¹²"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and 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. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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. ¹⁷Between 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?'"

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12

David repented of his disobedience after being confronted by Nathan the prophet. The king cried out to the Lord to create in him a new spirit. He begged God not to turn away from him because of his sin, but instead to forgive him, granting him renewed joy in the Lord's presence.

R: 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!

R: 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.

R: 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.

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

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

R: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

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

R: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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

Paul explained to the Corinthians how they became “ambassadors” for Christ. It was not through their own doing, rather it was through Christ who, though he was perfect, took human sin upon himself. Righteousness for sin, and sin for righteousness, through Christ alone.

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made himself to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with us, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING: Luke 18:9-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 18th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone

who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN: Savior, When in Dust to You.....RECLAIM No. 134

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN

P: Let us draw near to God with an honest heart, confessing our sins, and appealing to him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence is observed for reflection and self-examination.

P: Almighty God,

C: We confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

P: We have received your many blessings with a lack of gratitude; and have failed to be good stewards of your Creation.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We have followed our own selfish will and ways, and have failed to be your trusting and obedient servants.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven, and have failed to be your witnesses in the world.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our unfaithfulness — our fear, our anger, our pride, and our trust in our own righteousness.

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, our lack of concern for the needs of others, and our sense of entitlement to all we possess.

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, our negligence in worship, and our rejection of your Word in our lives.

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: By the cross and passion of your Son,

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

P: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. By his Holy Spirit, may he grant you true repentance, that you may live with him in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: As children of a fallen humanity, each of us shares in the consequences of human sin. In the words that the Lord first spoke to Adam, he now reminds us all: "By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (*Genesis 3:19*) Therefore, face-to-face, in the presence of God, we offer our confession in the spirit of our ancestor Job, who prayed:

C: I had heard you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes. (*Job 42:5-6*)

*The imposition of ashes is optional to worshippers this evening.
Those who wish to participate are invited to come forward at the direction of the ushers and receive an ashen cross on their forehead or hand, hearing the words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

BLESSING AND SENDING

P: May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart. May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds. May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon. Let us go forth into the Lenten season before us in peace.

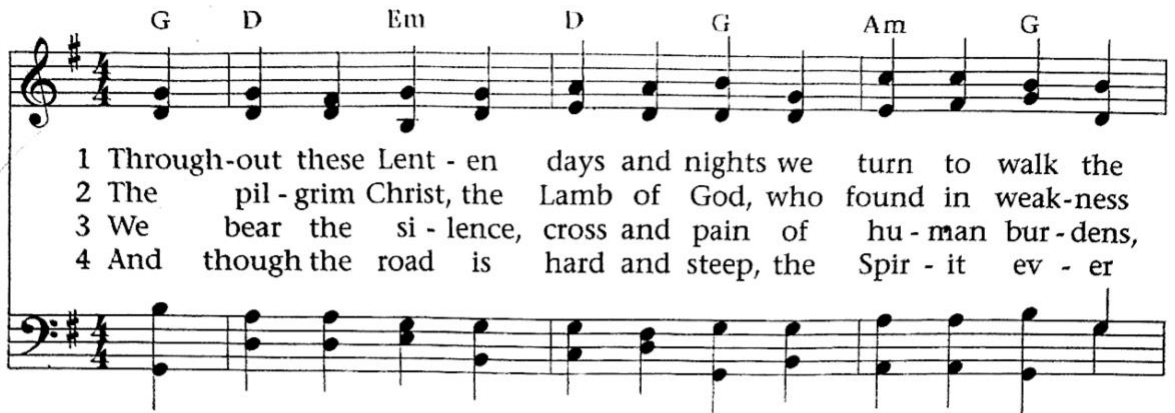
C: In the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights (*see page 7*)

POSTLUDE

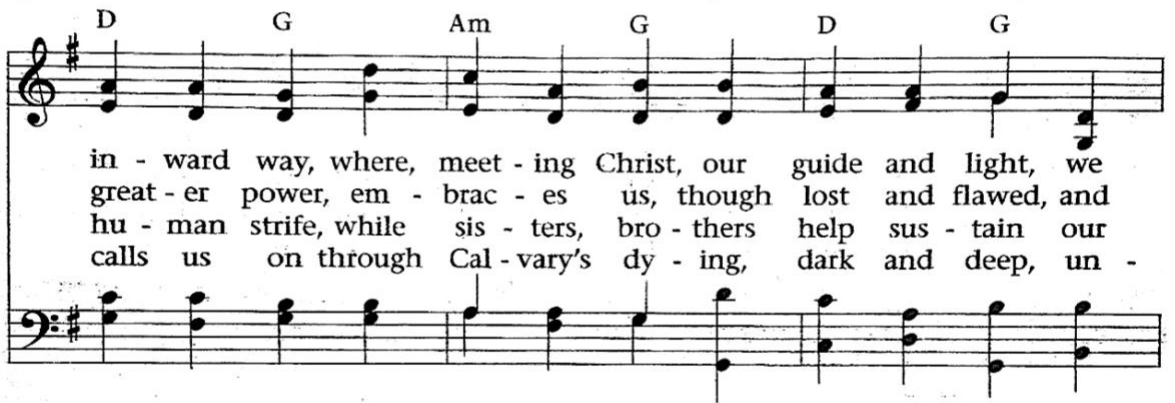
Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

G D Em D G Am G



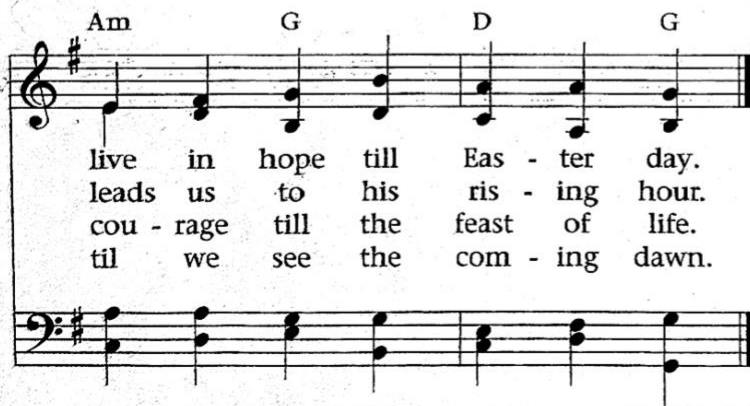
1 Through-out these Lent - en days and nights we turn to walk the
2 The pil - grim Christ, the Lamb of God, who found in weak-ness
3 We bear the si - lence, cross and pain of hu - man bur - dens,
4 And though the road is hard and steep, the Spir - it ev - er

D G Am G D G



in - ward way, where, meet - ing Christ, our guide and light, we
great - er power, em - brac - es us, though lost and flawed, and
hu - man strife, while sis - ters, bro - thers help sus - tain our
calls us on through Cal - vary's dy - ing, dark and deep, un -

Am G D G



live in hope till Eas - ter day.
leads us to his ris - ing hour.
cou - rage till the feast of life.
til we see the com - ing dawn.