



# ZION Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

*Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes*

WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God of our longing heart,

**People:** Inspire us to pray,

Pastor: God of our yearning spirits,

**People:** We seek a transforming encounter with Jesus Christ that we may grow as faithful people.

Pastor: God of changed hearts,

**People:** Inspire us to act that we may care for all your world. Let us worship our God.

## HYMN #609 — *Chief of Sinners Though I Be*

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Most holy and merciful Father:

**People:** We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Pastor: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**People:** Have mercy on us, Lord.

Pastor: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**People:** Have mercy on us, Lord.

Pastor: We confess to you Lord, all our past unfaithfulness; the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

**People:** We confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**People:** We confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**People:** We confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**People:** We confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**People: We confess to you, Lord.**

Pastor: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**People: Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Pastor: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**People: Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Pastor: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**People: Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Pastor: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**People: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

Pastor: May these ashes be to us, O God, an acknowledgment of our wrongdoing and our acceptance of your forgiveness.

In these ashes are our prejudices, our impatience, the times we have turned our backs on the suffering of others, our neglect of the environment, our indifference, our materialism, our greed, our hypocrisy, our envy, all of our sins.

In these ashes of repentance are the seeds of our forgiveness and our transformation. For God always accepts us and forgives us. Through our repentance and forgiveness comes transformation. May God create within each of us a clean heart and a new and right spirit.

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*This Rite is available for those who wish to receive a sign of penitence and human frailty. Please come forward by the center aisle and kneel at the altar rail, returning to your seat by the side aisle. To assist Pastor, please pull back hair from your forehead.*

**HYMN #592 — *Just As I Am, Without One Plea***

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

**People: And also with you.**

**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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon 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.**

## WORD

**THE LESSON — *Isaiah 58:1-12***

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous

judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL — *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21***

*[Jesus said to the disciples:]* 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. 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

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. 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.

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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE SERMON “Called to Be Restorers of the Breach” — *Pastor Ludford***

### **HYMN #335 — *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross***

**PRAYERS** ... Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

# THE OFFERING

## COMMUNION

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

### LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray;

People: 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.

### BLESSING

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God of mercy, we give you thanks for seating us at your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of your Son, awakened by the breathing of your Spirit. Send us out to awaken others to the mystery of your love, which is revealed to all the world in the one who came to give himself away, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

Pastor: God the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

People: Amen.

### HYMN #883 — *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* [VERSES 1, 2, 5]

### DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Share the bread.

People: Thanks be to God.



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