

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Our Mission: To share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024

The Service at Noon and 7:30 pm

GATHERING

The assembly gathers in silence.

PRELUDE: PSALM 51

Please kneel or sit during the chanting of the psalm.



Cantor

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.
Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor

Let us pray.

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 receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation

Amen.

Please sit.



THE WORD

Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—
a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.
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;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
 and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
 and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
 ‘Where is their God?’ ”

Reader

Word of God, word of life.

Congregation

Thanks be to God.

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

Chapter 5

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Chapter 6

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader

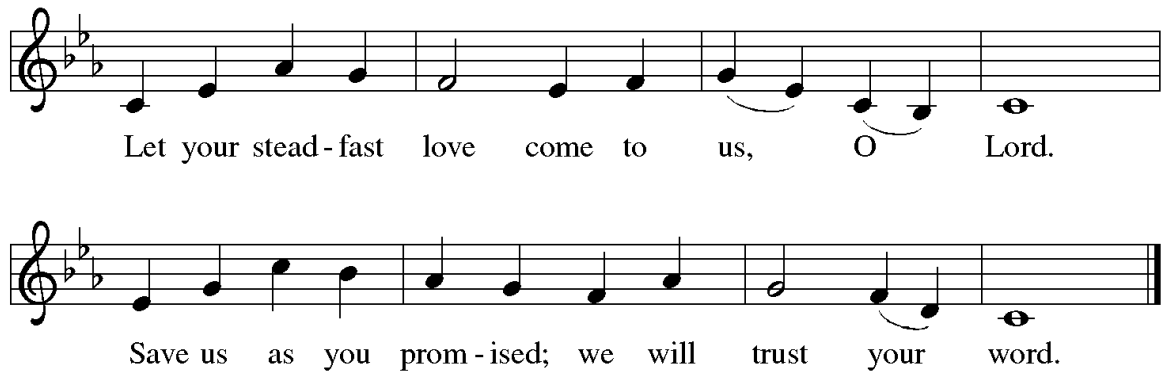
Word of God, word of life.

Congregation

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand and sing.



The Gospel is announced.

Pastor

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Congregation

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

"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.

Pastor

The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation

Praise to you, O Christ.

Create in Us a Clean Heart
Pastor Sandy Kessinger

HYMN OF THE DAY #800
Please stand and sing.

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

INVITATION TO LENT

Pastor Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent--self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love--strengthened by the gifts of Word and Sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Please kneel or sit. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Pastor Most holy and merciful God,
Congregation **we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous 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.

Congregation **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor We have shut our ears 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.

Congregation **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor Our past unfaithfulness,
the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives,
we confess to you.

Congregation **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you.

Congregation **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us,
we confess to you.

Congregation **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
we confess to you.

Congregation **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Congregation **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor Our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Congregation **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Congregation **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of
our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ
are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation **Amen.**

Please come forward to receive the ashes.

Pastor Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

HYMN #592

Please sing as people come forward for ashes.

Just As I Am, without One Plea

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final line and a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Pastor	Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
Congregation	that we may show forth your glory in the world.
Pastor	By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
Congregation	bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.
Pastor	Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
	strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Congregation	Amen.

PRAYERS

Pastor	We cry to you for help, O God, praying for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.
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A brief silence.

Pastor	You call your church to fast from injustice. Help us share our treasure with those in need, and teach us to pray as we ought. Lord, in your mercy,
Congregation	hear our prayer.

Pastor	You are the spring whose waters never fail. Repair the damage we have done to this earth. Restore the watersheds, the atmosphere, and the delicate balance of ecosystems. Lord, in your mercy,
Congregation	hear our prayer.

Pastor	You are gracious and merciful. Guide those in authority to serve the common good, to lift up those who live under the yoke of oppression, and to provide fair conditions for all workers. Lord, in your mercy,
Congregation	hear our prayer.

Pastor	You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Restore our cities, towns, and rural communities. Use us to build houses for the homeless, give bread to the hungry, and cover the naked. Lord, in your mercy,
Congregation	hear our prayer.

Pastor	You call us to return to you during this season of Lent. Satisfy our needs when we are in parched places, and make us strong. Lord, in your mercy,
Congregation	hear our prayer.

Pastor	We remember all those who have returned to dust, with whom we are one in the body of Christ. Crush our fear of death, and give us faith to live with courage. Lord, in your mercy,
Congregation	hear our prayer.

Pastor	Now is the acceptable time to offer our prayers to you, God of grace and truth. Receive them in your mercy, and grant us all that we need, in Jesus' name.
Congregation	Amen.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please give as you are able. We appreciate those who give in-person and those who give electronically.

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" by C.F. Mueller



COME TO THE TABLE

OFFERTORY SONG

Please stand and sing.

We are an offering

G C² Dm⁷ C²/E C/E
 We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our
 F C/E 3 Dm⁷ Dm⁷/G 3 C
 lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

Text and music: Dwight Liles
Text and music © 1984 Bug and Bear Music, admin: Word Music, Inc.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor
Congregation

Let us pray.
**Holy God, gracious and merciful,
 you bring forth food from the earth
 and nourish your whole creation.
 Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way,
 that all may know your care;
 and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life,
 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

Pastor The Lord be with you.
Congregation **And also with you.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.
Congregation **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Congregation **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of the your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All sing.

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

Pastor Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Congregation **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

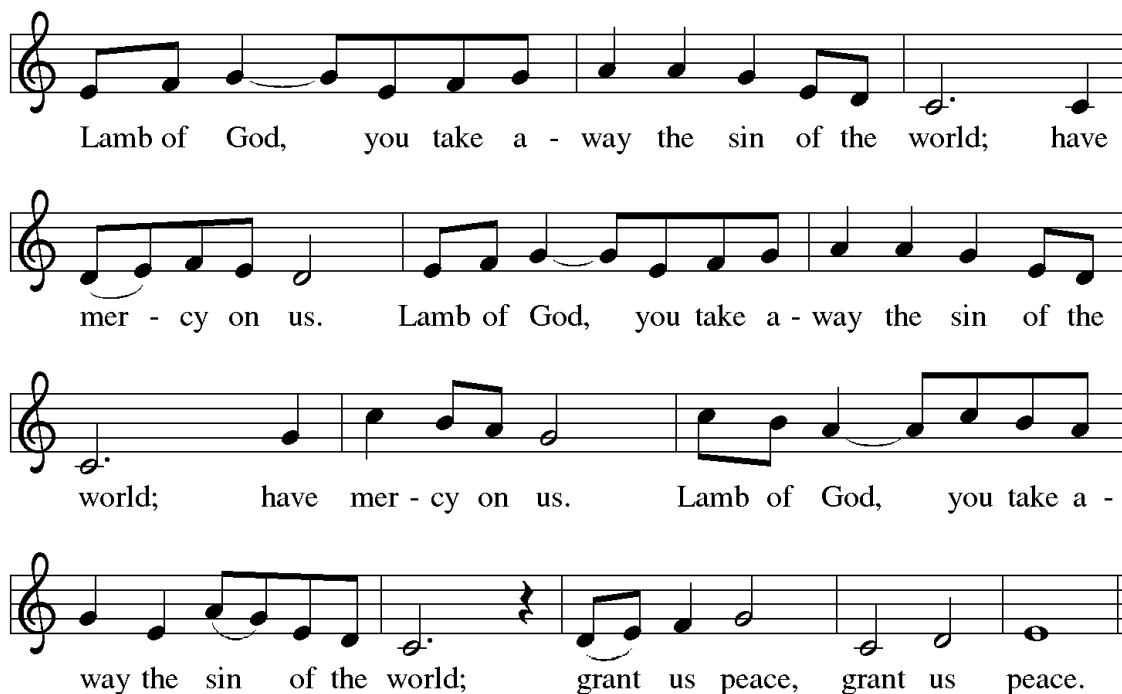
Pastor In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pastor Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Congregation **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.**

All sing.



INVITATION TO COMMUNE

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

*Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.
You are an important part of our faith community.*

For those taking Holy Communion:

Pastor will give verbal instructions on how Holy Communion will be distributed.

COMMUNION HYMN #328

All sing.

Restore in Us, O God



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
 fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
 we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

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Please stand.

Pastor May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood
 strengthen, keep and unite us, now and for ever.
 Congregation **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray.
 Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of
 baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-
 indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus
 Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
 now and forever.
 Congregation **Amen.**

THE SENDING

BLESSING

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
 Congregation **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Pastor Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
 be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
 strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;
 love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

Please leave in silence.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101
703-356-3346

Sunday Services

9:45 am for the contemporary service and 8:30 am and 11 am for traditional services

Redeemer's Lenten and Easter Services

Feb. 21 - March 20 Wednesdays 7:30 pm	Wednesday Lenten Service and Dinner Pray with Redeemer for Holden Evening Prayer held every Wednesday at 7:30 until Holy Week. A light supper will be offered at 6:30.
March 28 Thursday 7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Remember Christ and his command to love one another.
March 29 Friday Noon	Good Friday Worship On this sacred day, worship at noontime.
March 29 Friday 7:30 pm	Tenebrae Service Experience the solemn majesty of this special service as we remember Christ's death.
March 30 Saturday 7:30 pm	Easter Liturgy Join us as we go from the darkness of the tomb to the eternal light of Christ's resurrection.
March 31 Sunday 8:30, 9:45 and 11	Easter Morning Services Celebrate our Risen Lord this great day. The brass musicians will accompany our talented choir, making this a festival celebration to honor our Lord.