



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday Service

March 2, 2022

3:30 PM

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

We are here because God wants to be with us in a special way.

We are here because we want to be with God and with others who belong to God.

We are here because others need us to be here with them.

We are here because God has called us together.

We are holy people in the holy presence of God.

Let us prepare ourselves to be with God together.

The assembly gathers in silence.

Invocation

In the Name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Psalm 51:1-17 *responsively*

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness, and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³For I know | my offenses, and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴**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.**

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me, and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness; that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins, and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God, and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders, and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips, and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it. You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

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.

Prayer of the Day *The assembly stands.*

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. **C: Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading — *Isaiah 58:1-12*

A reading from Isaiah

¹Shout 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. ²Yet 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. ³“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. ⁴Look, 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. ⁵Is 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? ⁶Is 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? ⁷Is 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? ⁸Then 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. ⁹Then 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, ¹⁰if 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. ¹¹The 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. ¹²Your 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.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103 *responsively*

¹The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, * slow to anger and ¹ of great kindness

²**He will not always accuse us, * nor will he keep his anger forever.**

¹⁰He has not dealt with us according ¹ to our sins, * nor rewarded us according ¹ to our wickedness.

¹¹**For as the heavens are high ¹ above the earth, * so is his mercy great upon ¹ those who fear him.**

¹²As far as the east is ¹ from the west, * so far has he removed our ¹ sins from us.

¹³**As a father cares ¹ for his children, * so does the LORD care for ¹ those who fear him.**

¹⁴For he himself knows whereof ¹ we are made; * he remembers that we ¹ are but dust.

¹⁵**Our days are ¹ like the grass; * we flourish like a flower ¹ of the field;**

¹⁶when the wind goes over it, ¹ it is gone, * and its place shall know ¹ it no more.

¹⁷But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures forever on ¹those who fear him, *
and his righteousness on ¹children's children;

¹⁸on those who ¹keep his covenant* and remember his command-¹ments and do them

Second Reading — 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

A reading from 2 Corinthians

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in

every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Return to the ¹LORD, your God,* who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in ¹steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)

Holy Gospel—Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew **C: Glory to you O Lord.**

[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. ²So 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. ³But when you give alms do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁵But 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. ^{16:1}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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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. ^{19:1}Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Message

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the message.

Invitation to Lent

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

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

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most holy and merciful God,

C: 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.

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.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Imposition of Ashes

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. **C: Amen.**

People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. The choir will go first. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:

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

During this time, a musical reminder of our frailty may be presented. After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

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. **C: Amen.**

Music during the Imposition of Ashes

‘Remember That You Are Dust’ —Composers: Paul Tate & Deanna Light

Prayers of Intercession

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Renew your church, O God. When we drift from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Encourage believers to hold the church’s doors open to those who have felt excluded. Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Help each of us to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief, especially those we name before you..... Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

Renew our congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

As we receive the sign of ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you, especially John Wesley and Charles Wesley, whom we commemorate today. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving – The Eucharistic Meal

As the baptized children of God, we are invited by God to share the heavenly banquet. Jesus seats us at his table where we are delivered from sin, death, and evil by his body and blood from his death on the cross. In this meal, Jesus forgives our sins, granting us life and salvation. He is truly present here and reveals himself to us in the breaking of bread.

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set.

Offering—WE RETURN THANKS TO GOD AND SUPPORT GOSPEL MINISTRY

Please prepare your offering in an envelope to place in the offering box when you are dismissed for Communion. Also be sure you have filled out the attendance card.

You may also give by text (717) 366-6865 or online at www.StPetersLutheranYork.com.

Everything we are and have belongs to God and is entrusted to us for God's glory.

We are committed to sharing God's resources so that we can be a vital center for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help others locally and around the world.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Dialog

The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

**C: Holy, holy, holy! The LORD of hosts is holy!
The whole earth is full of his glory! Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus!

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Holy Spirit!

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

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

Lord's Prayer

**C: 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.**

Fraction—Breaking of the Bread

The Body of Christ is broken as he was broken for us in the Passover, in the loaves, and on the cross. He gives himself to us as he fed the multitudes. Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb who gave himself to deliver all people from slavery to sin.

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

C: Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to the disciples.

Distribution of the Sacrament

The pastor will commune.

*She will then commune those with mobility needs in their pews. Then the ushers will dismiss worshipers to come down the center aisle, receive the host, and **return to their seats by the side aisle.***

When all have communed, the service continues.

Post Communion Blessing

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

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

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. **C: Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Benediction

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Restore in Us, O God

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

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

Dismissal

A: 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. **C: Thanks be to God.**

—Wednesdays in Lent—

“Parables of Jesus” Stories from the Gospel of Luke

LENTEN EVENING VESPERS

—7:00 PM—

MARCH 9—16—23—30—April 6

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
25 W Springettsbury Ave. York

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St. Peter's Lutheran Church

947 North George Street, York PA 17404

8:45 AM—Worship Service

Church Staff

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Pastor

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Sextons

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This Week CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Thursday
8:00 AM — 1:15 PM

Friday
Office Closed