



*Ash
Wednesday*

March 5, 2025

Normandale Lutheran Church

PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

O Humanity, Bewail Thy Great Sin

J.S. Bach

SILENCE

GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of hope, you breathe into the dust of our lives and remind us of your steadfast love. Give us faith to open ourselves to pain and joy, death and life. Remind us of who we are as we join the unbroken line of the whole community of saints, from the beginning into eternity, as vessels of your love and grace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1,3b-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. 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-2,10-17 (sung responsively with cantor - congregational responses in **bold**)

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.**

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

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

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

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

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

**O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim 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.**

*GOSPEL READING

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.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Maria Pederson

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace (stanzas 1-4)

ELW 779

IMPOSITION OF ASHES | MEAL

INVITATION TO LENT

Siblings in Christ: we were created by God to experience joy in communion, to love humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. Sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. However, God invites us to repent and live. As followers of Jesus we are called to reject all that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us in our spiritual journey. We are invited, therefore, to commit ourselves to this discipline, and confess our sins as we enter this Holy season.

CONFESSION OF SIN (congregational responses in **bold**)

Most holy and merciful God, **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.

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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

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.

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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

All are invited to the altar to receive the imposition of ashes as confession of our mortality and need for God's grace, and a proclamation of Christ's presence with and for us in the cross.

*You will hear the words,
"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

When all have returned to their places:

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

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

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.

Amen.

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

Wash Me Thoroughly

David Hall

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Just As I Am, without One Plea
Be Thou My Vision

ELW 592
ELW 793

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

*SENDING PRAYER

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. As we are filled with your grace and mercy, send us out into the world that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and participate in your reign of peace. In the name of Christ, the holy one, we pray. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 188

DISMISSAL

- Please leave in silence -