

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST,



AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN

WELCOME
RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS
PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We have left many important pursuits to gather here.
In these moments, worship is of first importance.

ALL: **Together, we begin a season of self-examination.
We begin a humble walk with God through Lent.**

ONE: This is a time for building spiritual disciplines.
Those disciplined by Christ become disciples.

ALL: **We seek to follow in the steps of Jesus.
We want to walk in the paths where Christ leads.**

ONE: May God empower us here with genuine righteousness.
Let patience, kindness, and truthful speech prevail.

ALL: **We seek knowledge and the will to live by it.
We seek community and the capacity to share it.**

*HYMN

How Great Thou Art

51

INVOCATION

SCRIPTURES:

Psalm 51: 1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

SERMON

HYMN Our Father, We Have Wandered 371

CONFESSION OF SIN

LEADER: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us return to that love. I invite you, to commit yourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing your sin and by asking God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline. Let us pray.

PEOPLE: Most holy and merciful God: 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.

LEADER: We have not loved you with all our 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, O God.

LEADER: 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, O God.**

LEADER: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

PEOPLE: **We confess to you, O God.**

LEADER: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitations of other people,

PEOPLE: **We confess to you, O God.**

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

PEOPLE: **We confess to you, O God.**

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

PEOPLE: **We confess to you, O God.**

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

PEOPLE: **We confess to you, O God.**

LEADER: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For the neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

PEOPLE: Accept our repentance, O God.

LEADER: 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, O God.

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

PEOPLE: Accept our repentance, O God.

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

**PEOPLE: Favorable hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.
Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The usher will guide you forward. Ashes may be placed on your forehead or on your hand. If you would like them placed on your hand, please extend your hand, palm side down. After the imposition of ashes, you may return to your seat.

LEADER: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

PEOPLE: **That we may show forth your glory.**

LEADER: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

PEOPLE: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

ALL: **Amen.**

LEADER: Almighty God does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore God to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit that those things which we do this day may be pleasing to God, that the rest of our lives may be lived faithfully, and that at the last we may come to God's eternal joy; through Jesus the Christ.

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

GIVE THANKS:

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Receive, O God, our broken and contrite hearts, our restored and committed spirits, our renewed dedication of all we possess and all we are. Thank you for this day of salvation. Thank you for the daily presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Thank you for your promise to teach us the ways of steadfast love, purity, holiness, truthfulness, and power to accomplish the tasks you set before us.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN** Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights 250

BENEDICTION

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

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

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. 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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.