

St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church

5900 Applebutter Hill Rd. Coopersburg, PA 18036

The Rev. James Hammond, Pastor 965-9500 or 610-437-1960

Ash Wednesday—March 6, 2019

The Ash Wednesday liturgy reflects the austerity of the Lenten season. All that is non-essential, all that is elaborate is removed as a visible sign of our repentance and our return to the mercy and love of God. We wear ashes as an outward and public sign of that repentance. This marks the beginning of a penitential discipline which continues throughout the season of Lent.

The service begins with a time of silence for reflection.

HYMN #327 – "THROUGH THE NIGHT OF DOUBT AND SORROW"

PSALM 51 *Spoken responsively*

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out¹ 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 ever 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 purer 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 clean¹ heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

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

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim 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.

INVITATION TO THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Pastor: Friends in Christ, every year at the time of our LORD Jesus Christ's Passover from death to life, with the Church throughout the world, we celebrate our redemption from sin, death, and the devil. Lent is a time to renew our life in the Paschal mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection, in which we participate through the sacramental life of the Church. It is also a time to prepare candidates for baptism.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We show our resolve to amend our lives with the sign of ashes, which speak of our mortality and symbolize our repentance.

I invite you, therefore, to observe a holy Lent, committing yourselves to self-examination and penitence, prayer and fasting, almsgiving and works of love; and to attend to the Word of God and receive the Sacraments of Christ as we journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

THE CONFESSION *The congregation may kneel or sit*

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

C: have mercy on us.

P: For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire to receive ashes are invited to come forward to the communion rail.

The congregation may meditate on Psalm 90 as the ashes are imposed.

After all return to their places, the congregation stands for the conclusion of the confession:

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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 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.

FIRST LESSON:

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

SECOND LESSON:

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10

THE LENTEN VERSE

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,
slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

The Gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O LORD.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

After the Gospel reading:

P: The Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #319 "O LORD, THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS"

THE PRAYERS *Response: "Your mercy is great"*

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A: And also with you.

OFFERING "WITHOUT THE CROSS" – KYLE HILL

OFFERTORY "CREATE IN ME"

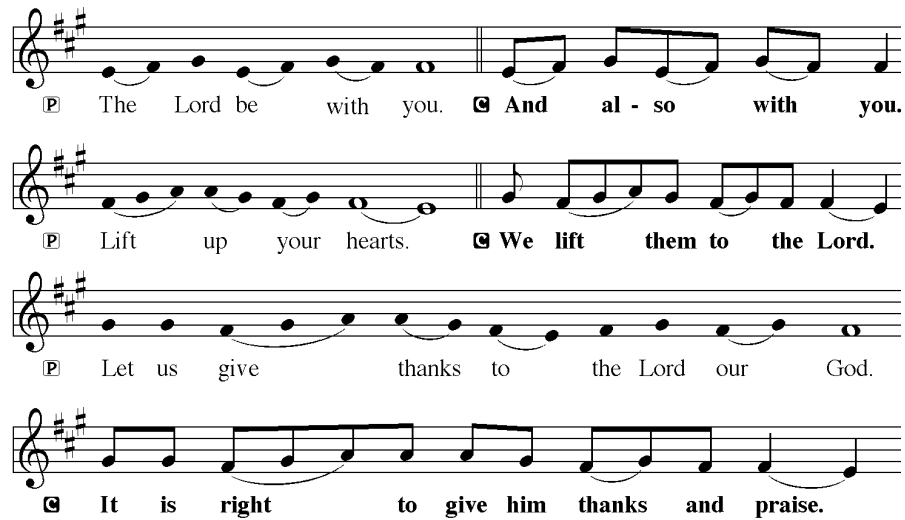
ELW #186

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: LORD God,

C: receive these gifts we bring as a sign of our penitence and loving service. Through this Eucharist, free us from sins and make us an acceptable offering to you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



② The Lord be with you. ③ And al - so with you.

② Lift up your hearts. ③ We lift them to the Lord.

② Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

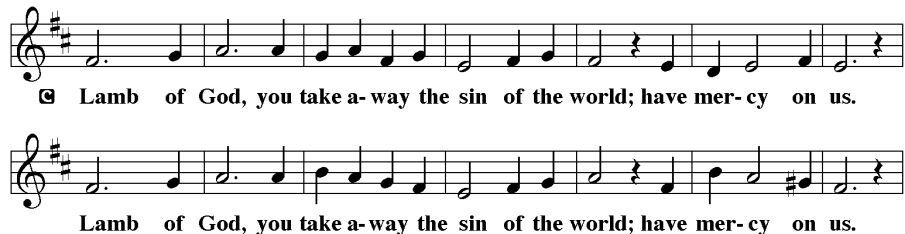
③ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Pastor prays the Eucharistic prayer. The congregation joins in the Lord's Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

LAMB OF GOD



③ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE HOLY COMMUNION - #608 "SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING"

BLESSING

P: The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER

P: LORD God, in your mercy, give grace to us who have received this Most Blessed Sacrament that our Lenten penance may give you glory and bring us pardon and salvation. Grant this through Jesus Christ our LORD. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

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

HYMN #326 "BLESS NOW, O GOD, THE JOURNEY"

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.
C: Thanks be to God.

The Congregation departs in silence.



Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return