



Ash Wednesday March 5, 2025

LENT 2025 AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Claimed and Called: Connecting Faith and Life during Lent: Our schedule on Wednesdays in Lent has changed this year to allow for a new all-ages faith formation opportunity. Lent is traditionally a time to dig into what it means to be baptized. In Baptism we are both claimed as children of God and called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

The Claimed & Called intergenerational study will bring together middle school age and up for study and faith conversations about living out of the promises of Baptism. Claimed & Called will be a time of speaking the faith to one another, growing deeper in discipleship, and building life-giving relationships with one another. (Note that the same material will be used at the morning and evening sessions). Here's our Wednesday Lent schedule March 12, 19, and 26 and April 2 and 9:

11:00 AM: Claimed & Called Study (Chapel)

12:00 PM: Holden Evening Prayer (Chapel)

12:20-1:00: Soup Lunch (Activity Center)

5:30-6:00 PM: Soup Supper (Activity Center)

6:05PM:

- Claimed & Called Study (Activity Center, for middle school-age and up)
- Nursery open for ages 0-3 and faith formation activities for pre-K and elementary-age children

7:00 PM: Holden Evening Prayer (Sanctuary); pray-ground in the sanctuary for children

MEDITATION

WELCOME

PSALM

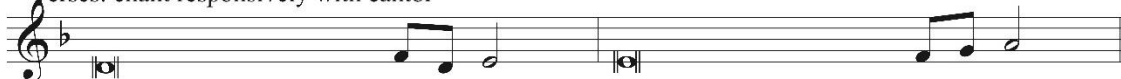
Psalm 51

Refrain: sing after cantor introduction and R



Have mer-cy on me, o God, ac-cord-ing to your stead-fast love.

Verses: chant responsively with cantor



- ¹ Have 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.**
- ³ For 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. R**
- ⁵ Indeed, 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.**
- ⁷ Remove 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. R**
- ⁹ Hide 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.**
- ¹¹ Cast 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. R**

Stand

GREETING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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.**

Sit

FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹ 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— ² 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. ¹² Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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?’”

R Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20 -6:10


²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; 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.

R Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re-tur-n 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, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew

6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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. ²“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. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“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. ⁶ 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. ¹⁶“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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

MESSAGE

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Be Thou My Vision (ELW 793)

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

INVITATION TO THE DISCIPLINE OF LENT

P Today, with the whole Church, we enter the time of remembering and proclaiming Jesus' death and resurrection. 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.

Having been baptized into the death of Christ and his resurrection, we are called into the rhythms of confession and forgiveness, freed for our vocations to serve our neighbor, and strengthened by the gifts of Word and Sacrament. Let us continue through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION

Kneel or sit as you are comfortable.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most holy and merciful God,

C we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

P 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.

P 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.

P 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.

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

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P 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.

P 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.

P 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.

P 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.

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

C Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Stand

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Make these ashes to 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.

Please be seated. All are welcome to come forward and receive ashes. The ashes will be used to make a cross on your forehead and the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" will be said.

MUSICAL OFFERING

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (arr. Boyd Bacon)

Adult Choir

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

Cre - ate in me a clean heart. O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Stand

SURSUM CORDA

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **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.

P Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love.

C **Let us receive the bread of life and cup of salvation.**

Sit

LAMB OF GOD

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

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

HOLY COMMUNION

During Communion, you are invited to silent prayer or reflection. You may wish to meditate on the psalms listed below (page 339 in ELW) or the Saints of the Church (page 87 in ELW)

Psalm 32 Psalm 130

Psalm 51 Psalm 139

Stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior and Lord,

C **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

HYMN

The Glory of These Forty Days (ELW 320)

1 The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.

2 Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.

3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
 delivered from the lions' might;
 and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became
 the herald of Messiah's name.

4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too,
 return in fast and prayer to you.
 Our spirits strengthen with your grace,
 and give us joy to see your face.

DISMISSAL

P Go forth into the world in the freedom of Christ. Support the weak; help the afflicted;
 honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Please depart in silence.

Lead Pastor: Erin Heidelberger
Associate Pastor: Andrew Kitzing
Cantors: Bryce Anderson (6:30 PM)