



Restoring Relationships through Justice

February 17, 2021

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

WELCOME

INVOCATION AND OPENING LITANY

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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.

Silence for Reflection

CONFESSION

We are created from the dust, and will return to dust. We are created in love and for love: to experience joy in communion with God, to love all people, and to care for all of creation. But the gravity of sin pulls us away from God, our neighbors, and creation. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to resist everything that pulls us down, away from God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love — the disciplines of Lent — help us in this struggle. I invite all of us to confess our sins, asking God for strength in the 40 days that will lead us through Good Friday to Easter morning.

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 and 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.

We have not heard your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

Have mercy on us.

We confess our self-indulgent appetites and our exploitation of other people.

Have mercy on us.

We confess our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

Have mercy on us.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our apathy to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

accept our repentance, God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

accept our repentance, God.

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

accept our repentance, God.

Restore us and let your anger depart from us.

Create in us a clean heart and put a new right spirit within us.

Amen!

Silence for Reflection

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Ashes have been a sign of repentance and contrition over the centuries. They are a reminder that, without the mercy of almighty God, we deserve the spiritual death pronounced on our first parents. Without the sustenance God provides on every level of human existence, we are only dust, and to dust we shall return.

ABSOLUTION

The Lord has had pity on us. Because of the obedience of His only-begotten Son, the man Jesus, we come into God's presence without fear of punishment. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of

you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

SERMON *“Restoring Relationships through Justice”*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father,

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.