



Bethel Lutheran Church
Ash Wednesday Service
February 22, 2023, 6:30 pm

Stefan Swanson, Interim Vicar
Jan Smith, Accompanist
GivePlus Text 866-298-7547

GATHERING

(Assembly gathers in silence)

PSALM Psalm 51:1-17 (read responsively)

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 (p. 940 in the pew Bible)

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

REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY "Jesus, Priceless Treasure" ELW #775

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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 own 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

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

OFFERING

CONCLUDING PRAYER

SENDING

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth, bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "Give Me Jesus" ELW #770

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**