

# Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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**Ash Wednesday † February 17, 2021**

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## WELCOME

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

<sup>1</sup>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—

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with all your  
heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and  
with mourning;

<sup>13</sup>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.  
<sup>14</sup>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?  
<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
<sup>16</sup>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.  
<sup>17</sup>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?' "

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM 51:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.  
<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**  
<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
<sup>4</sup>**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.**  
<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.  
<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**  
<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.  
<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**  
<sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.  
<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**  
<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**  
<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.  
<sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.  
<sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.  
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**  
<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10**

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great

endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of our Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Restore in Us, O God"

## **INVITATION TO LENT**

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

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.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes 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. **Amen.**

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. (You may impose ashes on yourself and those in your household)

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.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you call your church to be ministers of reconciliation throughout the world. Inspire your church in its proclamation of the gospel and guide its ministries to build up the body of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants and you declared that it is good. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the well-being of all people and raise up advocates to speak and serve on behalf of the downtrodden. Lord, in your mercy.

**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially we remember those on our hearts and minds. And support caregivers who attend to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are love, and you call us to love one another. Accompany with your grace those journeying toward baptism and call us all to repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are our life and our salvation. We give you thanks for the righteous who have died in faith. Inspire us by their example to proclaim your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **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

## **BENEDICTION**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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## **Offering**

If you are interested, you may sign up for Simply Giving through Vanco by contacting treasurer Julie Kohout, or send your offering to Emanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545. **Please do not send cash in the mail!**