

## WELCOME

### HYMN #91 (Green) *Savior, When in Dust to You (vs 1 & 2)*

Savior, when in dust to you low we bow in homage due;  
When, repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
Oh, by all your pains and woe suffered once for us below,  
Bending from your throne on high, hear our penitential cry!

By your helpless infant years, by your life of want and tears,  
By your days of deep distress in the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour of the insulting tempter's pow'r,  
Turn, oh, turn a fav'ring eye; hear our penitential cry!

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

L: Brothers and sisters, God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but turn to him and live. As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love -- the discipline of Lent -- help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

## THE CONFESSION

L: Most Holy and merciful Father:

**C: 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, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

L: 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. We have been deaf 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, Lord.**

L: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people. Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves. Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work. Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

L: Accept our repentance, Lord for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty; for all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us; for our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

L: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen**

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES/REMEMBRANCE OF ASHES

If you received ashes earlier, trace the path of the ashes in remembrance, or mark yourself and those you worship with the sign of the cross and say:

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”

1. Since Old Testament days, ashes have been a visible sign of sorrow and repentance, an outward declaration that one is truly sorry for one’s sin.

2. The ashes with the words, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return” are a powerful reminder to believers that life here on earth is temporary. We all live fragile lives and death is always real.

3. This is a visible sign of belonging to Jesus Christ, and faith that He is the One who gives life that death cannot take away.

L: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant in this place, and by the command of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Gracious God,

C: 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.**

## First Lesson: 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?'"

**Second Lesson: 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.

**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."

## **Choir Anthem – “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**

**Message: Pastor John Twiton**

### **HYMN: #438 Lord Teach Us How to Pray Aright (vs 1, 3, & 5)**

Lord, teach us how to pray aright, with rev'ence and with fear.  
Through dust and ashes in your sight, we may, we must draw near.

Give deep humility; the sense of godly sorrow give;  
A strong desire, with confidence, to hear your voice and live;

Give these, and then your will be done; thus strengthened with all might,  
We, through your Spirit and your Son, shall pray, and pray aright.

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** Apostle's Creed p. 65

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our times of need. Accompany us in the Lenten journey, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

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.**

**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. 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.**

### **BLESSING**

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.  
**Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN #99 O Lord Throughout These Forty Days (vs 1 & 4)**

O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.

Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.