

Ash Wednesday Service February 22, 2023

First Lutheran Church, Port Colborne.....2 pm

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Welland....7 pm

Gathering

The assembly gathers in silence

Psalm 51:1-17

1Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

2Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

4Against 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.

5Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

6You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

7Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

9Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

10Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

11Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

12Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Greeting ELW page 251

Prayer of the Day

Word

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

2 Corinthians 5:2b-6:10

Gospel Acclamation ELW page 252

Matthew 6:1-6-16-21

Sermon

Hymn ELW 808- “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

Invitation to Lent: *“Repentance-“To repent is too come to your senses. It is not so much something you do as something that happens. True repentance spends less time looking at the past and saying “I’m sorry than to the future and saying, ‘wow!’”*

Frederick Buechner (1973, 1993) Wishful Thinking: A Seeker’s ABC: New York, Harper Collins, p. 96.

Confession:

Presider: Most Holy and merciful God:

**ALL: we confess that to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our 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.**

Leader: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
All: Have mercy on us, O God

Leader: We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
All: 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 the 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 judgements, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, 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 the generations that will follow 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

***“Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.
Repent and believe the Gospel.”***

Silent Reflection.

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 Saviour,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Presider: 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

Concluding Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Sending

Blessing

Sending Song #801 Change My Heart, O God

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage; hold fast to what is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

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