



*Preparing your space: The year 2020 taught us just how much our space matters. We realized how holy our sanctuaries are when we are unable to gather within them. However, this season also reminds us that God does not reside in any one place, for God is everywhere – and God promises to draw near to us wherever we may be.*

*As you begin worship this night, we invite you to mark your space so that your soul knows this is holy ground. You may wish to light a candle; or to settle into your favorite chair or even a pillow on the floor. Gather your supplies (a bowl of water and a small houseplant or a small container of dirt). Take a few deep breaths in and out and prepare your space by saying and praying: I am here. God is here. This space is holy ground.*

## **PRELUDE**

*Create in Me*

M. Buckhardt

(Cantor and ELC Bell Choir)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Gracious God, you set the stars burning, started the earth spinning, and out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. You, who began all things, know how afraid we are of the end and our own mortality. Let us hear in tonight's dreadful promise, *to dust you shall return*, the echo of another: that through the cross and empty tomb, you bring us all to abundant and everlasting life.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING: JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17**

*Because of the coming day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community declares that God is gracious and asks God to spare the people lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

<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** *The refrain is sung by the cantor, then by ALL;  
 The verses are sung responsively using the psalm tone.*

**Refrain**

Have mer - cy on me, O  
 God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love.

**Psalm Tone**

<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 ev- | er 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.**

**Refrain**

<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 pur- | er than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice. Refrain**

<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 spir- | it within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. Refrain**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored 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, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

<sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.  
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**

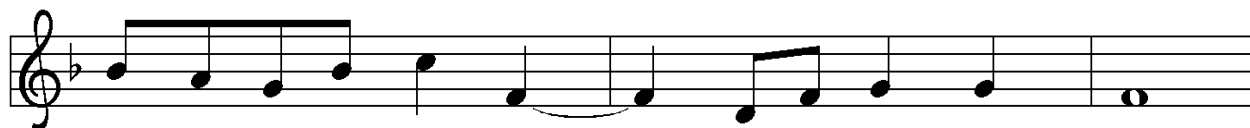
<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise. **Refrain**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S125 – Marty Haugen



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1-6,16-21

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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 the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### *Restore in Us, O God*

ELW 328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

## 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.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

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 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**

This year, we are more aware of the fragility of life. Though we cannot share ashes in the ways we have become accustomed, we engage in a ritual that draws us close to the earth and the water, reminding us that we are a part of creation, and in death, we will return to that creation and our Creator.

Rest your eyes on the water in your worship space tonight. This Lent, we are invited to journey with God's promises, especially those made in the waters of baptism. These waters heal us, cleanse us, and renew us, reminding us of our baptism and joining us to the death of Christ.

Set your eyes on the earth in your worship space tonight. This dirt has witnessed the brokenness and erosion and weathering of the earth itself. It is a home for death and new life.

This dust is a sign of our mortality and penitence, for just as we are created from the dust of the earth, so shall we return to dust. It is through Jesus Christ that a symbol of death like the cross is transformed and that we are transformed to be given new life.

I invite you to mix a little water with the dirt that you have with you and create a damp mixture. Then place some in your palm, and rubbing it gently, make the sign of the cross on your hands or on your forehead, saying:

***Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.***



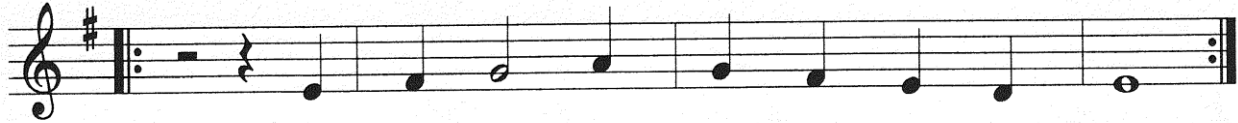


## *Have Mercy, O Lord*

Robert Moore

*The cantor sings:* We are dust and to dust we shall return.

*The cantor sings, then ALL repeat:*



Have mer - cy, O Lord, for we have sinned.

*The cantor sings from Psalm 51:*

In your goodness, O Lord, wipe out my offense.

In your compassion, have mercy, have mercy, O God.

*ALL sing the refrain above.*

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 THE PEOPLE**

On this Ash Wednesday, we pray for the church and for all in need. Let these bids encourage our spoken or silent prayers.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world.

Let us pray for our congregation.

Let us pray for everyone who is preparing for baptism at Easter.

Let us pray for the health of plants and animals, and for all who care for the earth.

Let us pray for peace throughout the world, and an increase of justice in our land.

Let us pray for those who are hungry, homeless, and unemployed.

Let us pray for the end of this pandemic.

Let us pray for all who are sick or suffering, and for all who today will die.

Let us pray for the desires of our hearts.

Let us thank God for all who have gone before us in the faith.  
Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in  
your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **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.**

*We don't serve ourselves communion because there's something holy about that promise coming  
from outside our own bodies, a perfect declaration from God spoken to us by our neighbor: This  
is the body of Christ, given for you. This is the blood of Christ, poured out for you. If you are  
gathered with others from your household, speak these words aloud when you serve each other.  
If you do not have someone in the room with you while you receive the sacrament, hear my voice  
as the external word of grace and invitation.*

**+ + *Receive the Meal* + +**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*We pause for prayer and reflection.*

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the  
gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need,  
fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life 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.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **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.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

### *Be Thou My Vision*

**ELW 793**



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honor all people;  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, go forth to love and serve our God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### *Be Thou My Vision*

Noel Rawsthorne

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### **Our Mission:**

Transforming lives by sharing a saving faith in Jesus Christ  
and living the Gospel through service

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, connect with our ministries,  
meet with one of our pastors, or learn more about ELC and how to join, feel free to  
call or email us. You are always welcome here.

+ Pastor Christina Klein

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David Bugher		Contemporary Worship Music Leader
Walt Horn		Traditional Worship Music Leader
Will Santiago		Custodian

***Join us for worship livestream  
at 5pm on Saturday and 8:45am & 10:45am on Sunday,  
and for midweek worship together on ZOOM, next Wednesday at 7pm.***

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