



Ash Wednesday  
February 17, 2021

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**WELCOME**

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*#606 Our Father We Have Wandered*

**GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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**

**1st READING**

**Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

**PSALM**

**51:1-17**

**2nd READING**

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

**GOSPEL**

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/SERMON**

Pastor Lynette Chapman

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

Drop, drop slow tears

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### 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.

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.**

#### **BLESSING OF MASKS AS A SIGN OF LOVE AND MORTALITY**

Because we cannot receive ashes virtually, we offer another reminder of our mortality and dependence on God – a reminder that lives with us daily right now – our masks. I invite you now to pick up one of your masks, that it might represent all of the face masks you wear to protect others. Let us pray:

Holy One, bless our masks.

May we place them on our faces prayerfully, grateful for our bodies and for the breath that fills the fabric.

May we remove them mindfully, thankful for human connection and for the gift of today's interactions.

May our masks make life more meaningful.

May they enliven our senses, reminding us to listen with compassion and speak with humility.

May they prod us to consider our own human fragility and mortality, and to remember those who have suffered and died during this pandemic.

May we wear them out of love for one another, inspired by our common bond to care for the needs and frailty of the other.

Holy One, who suffered and died to free us from the disease of sin, bless our masks and all they have to teach us. Especially during this season of Lent, may the wearing of a mask be part of our discipline of love towards one another and lead us toward that day when we will all rejoice, healthy and whole, in your presence. Amen.

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**

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **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.**

<b>SENDING</b>
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#### **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### **SENDING HYMN**

*#793 Be Thou My Vision*

#### **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;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

Thank you for joining us. You can find more information about worship services, online devotions, fun activities for kids, a link for electronic giving, and more at our website [www.gslc-cu.org](http://www.gslc-cu.org).

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