

### St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 186 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

The Nursery, which is accessed from the double doors, front right, is available for any family needing a space away. We are currently gathering names of individuals willing to staff the Nursery. If you are willing to serve, kindly notify the church office.

**Our Communion** is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

### **Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19**

### **Entering and Leaving the Church:**

Please wear a mask while in worship and take your service bulletin home with you.

### **Offerings:**

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

#### While in the Nave:

Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew. Occasionally an usher may seat a guest in the red zone.

#### **Communion Procedure:**

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 8 adults per side).
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step.
- 5. Remove your face mask.
- 6. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.
- 7. Consume the communion host.
- 8. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.
- 9. Consume the wine.
- 10.Replace your face mask.
- 11. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.
- 12. Return to your pew using the side aisle.

**Our COVID-19 task force** is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Norma Shue, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

# March 2, 2022 Ash Wednesday, Noon & 7:00 PM

**PRELUDE** 

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Wm. James Ross

Stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

## In All Our Grief (ELW 615)



#### **CONFESSION**

Brothers and sisters: We were created to experience joy in communion with God, 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 to 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.

The people sit. There is silence and self-examination.

Then the pastor leads the people in the confession.

Most holy and merciful God:

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.

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, Lord.

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.

### Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

### we confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

### we confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, we confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

### we confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, we confess to you, Lord.

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,

### accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

## accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

# accept our repentance, Lord.

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

# Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen

+ Imposition of Ashes +

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward by the center aisle.

The minister will trace the sign of the cross on the forehead with ashes, saying:

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

After receiving the ashes, return to your pew by the side aisle.

When all who desire ashes have received them,
the pastor will lead the people in concluding the confession.

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

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### Stand

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. . . . 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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### Sit

READING Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (back cover)

Psalm 51:1-17 (spoken responsively by half-verse) **PSALMODY** 

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | lovingkindness;\*

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 transgressions,\*

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.

<sup>5</sup> And so you are justified | when you speak\*

and upright | in your judgment.

<sup>6</sup> Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,\* a sinner from my | mother's womb.

<sup>7</sup> For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,\*

and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.

<sup>8</sup> Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;\*

wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.

<sup>9</sup> Make me hear of | joy and gladness,\*

that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

<sup>10</sup> Hide your face | from my sins,\*

and blot out all | my iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> Create in me a clean | heart, O God,\*

and renew a right spir- | it within me.

Continued on next page...

- 12 Cast me not away | from your presence,\*
  - and take not your Holy | Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving | help again\* and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.
- <sup>14</sup> I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,\* and sinners shall re- | turn to you.
- <sup>15</sup> Deliver me from | death, O God,\*

and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of | my salvation.

<sup>16</sup> Open my | lips, O Lord,\*

and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

17 Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,\*
but you take no delight | in burnt-offerings.

### Stand

#### VERSE





#### HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

### Sit

# SERMON

Pastor Reep

### Stand

#### NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate:

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Renew your church, O God. Help us boldly proclaim repentance and guide people toward you. Merciful God,

### receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Merciful God,

### receive our prayer.

Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief (*especially*). Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God,

### receive our prayer.

Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

### Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you (especially John Wesley and Charles Wesley, whom we commemorate today). At the last gather us into your eternal embrace. Merciful God,

## receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

The people share signs of peace. The ministers prepare the altar for Holy Communion.

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### Stand

#### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

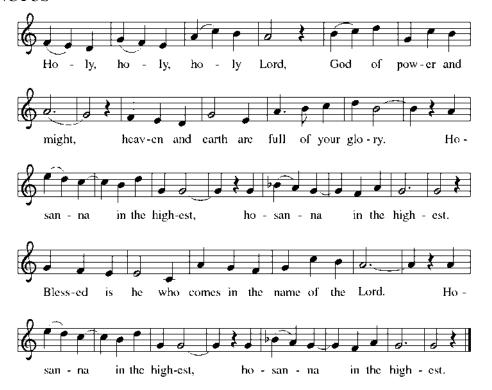
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### **SANCTUS**



#### THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever. **Amen** 

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

### THE 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.

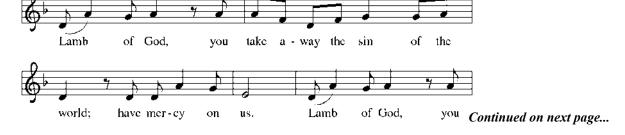
Give us this day our daily bread;

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.

# **FRACTION** A brief silence is kept.

# AGNUS DEI





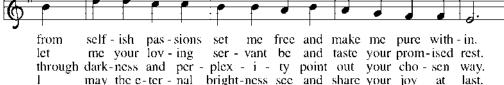
#### Sit

**COMMUNION** Today we resume distribution of Holy Communion, the body and blood of Christ, with both bread and wine. The wine is offered by pouring chalice and individual communion glasses. This is an option for those who choose to receive the sacrament in both kinds. You may continue to receive only the communion host if that is your desire. Kindly follow the procedure for reception of Holy Communion listed below

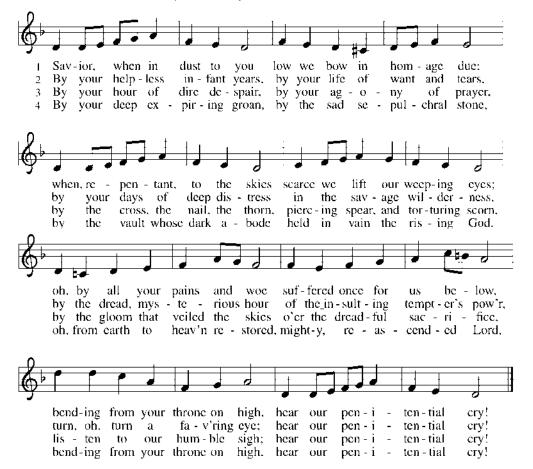
- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 8 adults per side).
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.
- 4. Take your place along the chancel edge.
- 5. Remove your face mask.
- 6.Extend your hands to receive the communion host.
- 7. Consume the communion host.
- 8. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.
- 9. Consume the wine.
- 10. Replace your face mask.
- 11. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.
- 12. Return to your pew using the side aisle.

## COMMUNION HYMNS Lord Jesus, Think on Me (ELW 599)





### Savior, When in Dust to You (ELW 601)



#### Stand

#### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.** 

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord God, in your mercy, give grace to us who have received this Most Blessed Sacrament that our Lenten penance may give you glory and bring us pardon and salvation. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### BLESSING

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

The worshipers remain in their seats until the ministers and choir have exited the chancel.

**POSTLUDE** 

The Glory of these Forty Days

Wm. James Ross

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 Matthew6:1-6, 16-21

The subscription to the symphony brought Naomi and Frank into the presence of brilliant musicians month after month. They anticipated the symphony's new season posting the repertoire to be performed and the array of renowned soloists to grace the stage. Naomi and Frank loved their nights out, their time together, and the beauty of music provided through their subscription. Some of the music was familiar to them. And some of the music pushed their limits of appreciation, especially Frank's. But each year, they longed for the season to begin, the musicians to perform, and the soloists to bring the audience to new understandings of who they are in relationship to the music performed.

At times during performances Naomi's mind would drift off to thoughts about when she aspired to be a professional musician. She would listen with the intent to stay focused on the music. But for some reason or other she would begin to think about herself being on stage, the intensity of the lights, and the intensity of her concentration, the joy of music making, the cacophony of sound, and the delight of working with incredible colleagues and conductors, and of course the thunderous applause at the conclusion. She would not publicly admit to that fact but Frank was aware of her intermittent drifting off during symphonic performances.

Naomi's drift wasn't always about being on stage. Often her mind drifted off to the subterranean rehearsal rooms. Windowless rehearsal spaces the industry calls rooms, really they are cubicles, spaces often dark and dank. Think basement closet. Here it was that she made mistakes, reached her breaking point, cried in loneliness, cursed composers, allowed jealous envy to weaken her resolve, and practiced fervently anticipating recognition and notice. During the season Frank figured that Naomi heard about half of what they had paid for. The other half, Naomi could have been just about any place else.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a season. We may not approach it like Naomi and Frank anticipating the symphonic season. We may not be all that concerned about what the worship life of the congregation will be like, what the clergy will preach and the Sunday school teachers teach. We may not be all that interested in what hymns we will sing or even what aspects of the season we will most appreciate, converse with friends about over coffee, or the joy of being given another go, another year to make sense of Lent, the dust on our faces that come from the crucified one, and the season where God longs for humanity to return.

In a year when we have been hearing so much from the Gospel of Luke now our attention is turned to Matthew. We have a bit of Matthew sandwiched in between two key verses of Luke's teaching. Luke writes "Be merciful, as your Father is merciful." And "do not judge, and you will by no means be judged." Like an intermission at a concert, we hear other things beside the musical compositions. During intermission if you listen, only a little, not straining your ears mind you, you pick up all sorts of things (most of which you may not wish to repeat.) Today/tonight we are picking up some things from Matthew things you will want to repeat, things you will want to remember; things about charitable donations and prayer and fasting.

Today/Tonight it seems, according to Matthew's take on the teaching of Jesus, that it's even ok, maybe even desirable for us to spend some time in the equivalent of the windowless rehearsal space, cubicle, closet that Naomi frequents during her time when she drifts off during the symphony. Ash Wednesday brings us up close and personal to the mistakes that we have made, the moments where we have reached our breaking point wanting to call it quits, the tears spilled forth from loneliness, the things and persons we have cursed, the jealousy and envy that weaken us, and the desire for recognition, notice, applause. These are certainly not the things we want performed on stage. These are the things that encompass our sinful lives. Ash Wednesday opens a season for us to begin again. Like the symphony wanting patrons to return, Lent is a season marked with God's deepest desire for us to return to God.

Being faithful comprises practices; giving, prayer, fasting that isn't captured by the intensity of stage lights, are not meant to be applauded, or posted so that others become jealous or envious. The season is composed in such a way as to provide us with new understandings of what it means to be in relationship with the one, Christ Jesus, who teaches disciples and instructs them in how to perform, carry out, and live into, Christian life. With Matthew providing the first selection of the Lenten season we are called to faithfulness.

Naomi and Frank loved the symphony season. They loved their time together, their nights out and the beauty of the music. Some of the music was familiar and some stretched them, well at least it stretched Frank. The Lenten season is marked with God's love for you and God's desire to be with you. God's new season is here. Amen.

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

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.

12 Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 13 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.

14Who 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,

Why should it be said among the peoples 'Where is their God?'" or Isaiah 58:1-12 [not printed]

Psalm 51:1-17

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 [not printed]

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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>56</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."

Next Sunday's Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.

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