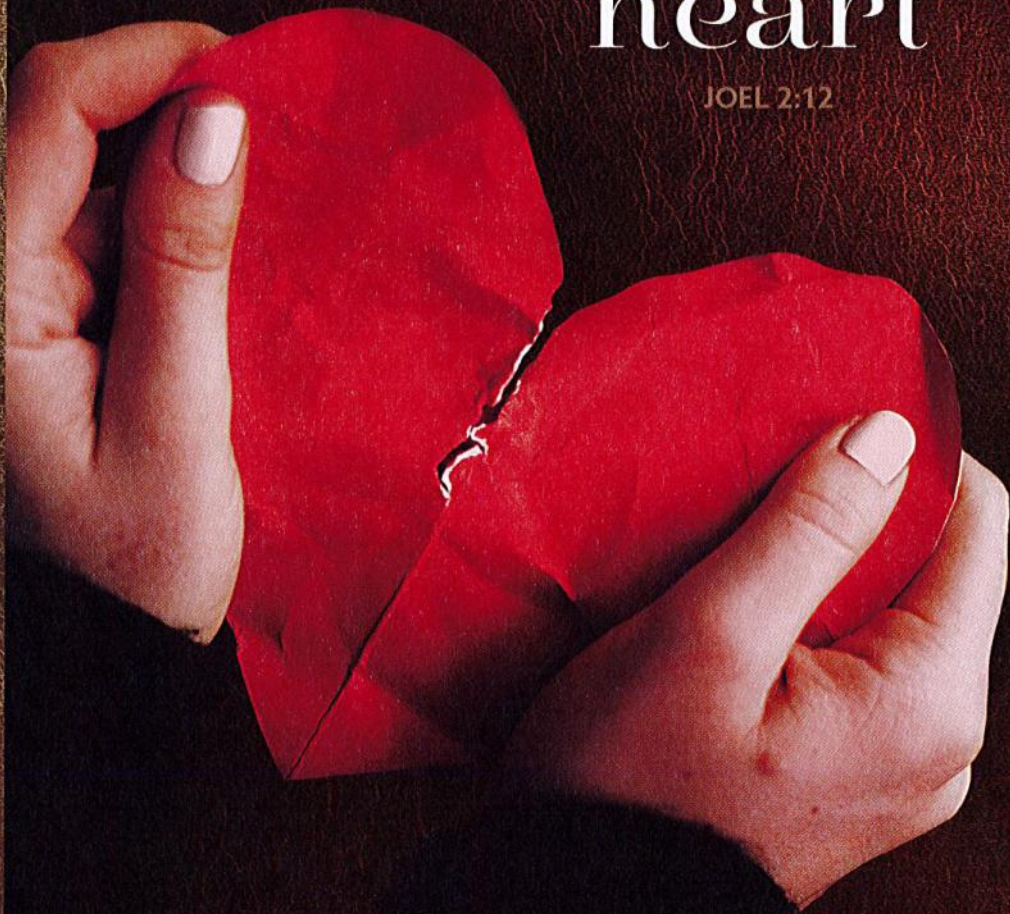


Return to God  
with all your  
heart

JOEL 2:12



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

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 188 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Offerings** Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) or use the QR Code provided.

**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 which is accessed through the double doors front right.

**The Nursery** is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

**An AED/Defibrillator** unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

**Parents**, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.



Lutheran Church in York, PA - St.  
Paul's Lutheran...

[stpaulsyork.org](http://stpaulsyork.org)

## STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
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Preschool Director	Deb Becker	<a href="mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com">director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com</a>

**March 5, 2025**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**Holy Communion 11:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.**  
*Musical setting #9 Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**PRELUDE**

*Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

David Cherwien

*Stand*

**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*

**ENTRANCE HYMN     *Savior, When in Dust to You (ELW 601)***



- 1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;
- 2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,
- 3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,
- 4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,





when, re - pen - tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes;  
 by your days of deep dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,  
 by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,  
 by the vault whose dark a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf - fered once for us be - low,  
 by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,  
 by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,  
 oh, from earth to heav'n re - stored, might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord,



bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 turn, oh, turn a fa - v'ring eye; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**RESPONSE**

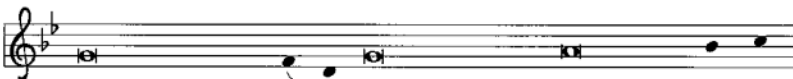


Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

**RESPONSE**



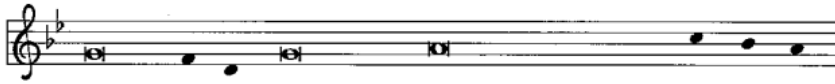
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of

*Continued on next page...*



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**RESPONSE**



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**RESPONSE**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

### 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. **Amen**

**Sit**

**READING**

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

*(back cover)*

**PSALMODY**

Psalm 51: 1-17 *The Psalm refrain is sung by the congregation.*

*The verses are sung by the cantor.*

*Refrain*



Have mer - cy on me, O



God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love.

Text: Psalm 51:1-17

Music: Daniel Schwandt

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- <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. **Refrain**
- <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.
- <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb. **Refrain**
- <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. **Refrain**
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.
- <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. **Refrain**
- <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. **Refrain**
- <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**

**Stand**

**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.*

Lord, we pray for the church as the season of Lent begins. Strengthen communities of faith in discipleship and witness for the sake of the gospel. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. Breathe healing and renewal into all places where ecosystems are stretched and strained. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for an end to wars and occupations that reduce communities to ash. Turn leaders away from fearful decision-making, and lead all people into the justice and compassion of your reign. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who live with pain (*especially*). Comfort people living with chronic or terminal illnesses, addictions, or anxiety. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**



We pray for those who accompany the dying: for first responders, health care and hospice workers, chaplains, and those who facilitate burials of the dead. Sustain them as they serve their neighbors in life and death with dignity and care. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for those who have completed their lives on earth and have returned to you. Strengthen us with the promise that within the ashes of death are the seeds of resurrection life. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Sit

**OFFERING** 11:00 AM *Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains* Samuel Scheidt  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir *Purge Me, O Lord* Thomas Tallis

## OFFERTORY *Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW 188)*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

*Continued on next page...*

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
 we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our  
 time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake  
 of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### DIALOGUE *Stand*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

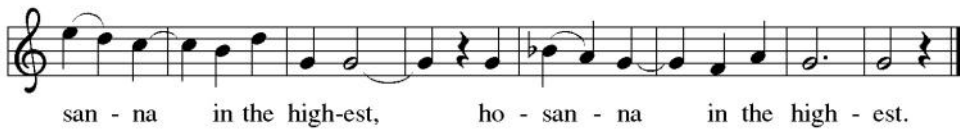
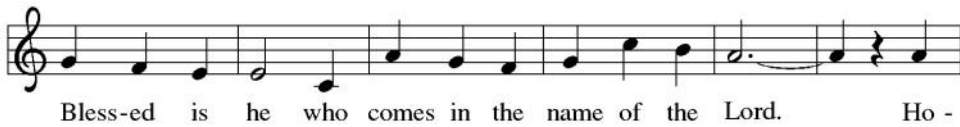
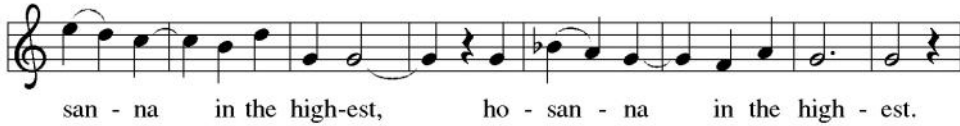
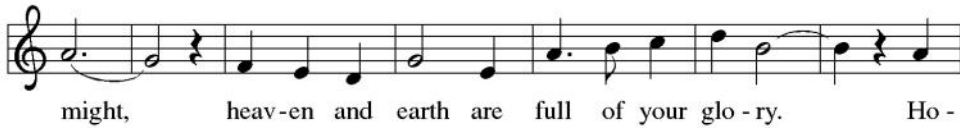
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You lead your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour our your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all honor and glory is 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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL *Sit*

Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

*Procedure for receiving Communion:*

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*
- 2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 3. Take your place along the chancel step.*
- 4. The ministers will bring the host and wine to you.*
- 5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 6. Return to your pew using the side aisle*

## COMMUNION 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.

*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. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## BLESSING

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



## HYMN

*As the Winter Days Grow Longer (ACS #924)*

1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;  
 2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,  
 3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light —  
 lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer —  
 quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:  
 Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - freshed from sin.  
 Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!  
 God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!  
 God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!



## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.      **Thanks be to God!**

*The congregation remains standing until the ministers and servers have left the chancel.*

## POSTLUDE

*The Glory of These Forty Days*

Robert J. Powell

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## Ash Wednesday C, 2025

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

**Psalm 51:1-17**

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

Psalm 51 is familiar “*Create in me a clean heart, O God.*” It has occupied the place as preferred offertory response in Lutheran worship resources since the days of the Reformation. At the beginning of the season of Lent we bring it around again this time as both confession and repentance during a season centering us on God’s steadfast love and mercy.

The Psalm traditionally has been associated with repentance and the need for it in our lives in order to move forward from the horrible situations in which we find ourselves. Purge me, cleanse me, make me right again. The Psalmist knows well how deep the sickness, the simple wrongness of sin settling into our very being. It is neither just a feeling of guilt on our part or a verdict of guilty on the part of God which is at stake. It is the sickness and stain of corruption.

The Psalm is linked to characters of our religious past; David who is king of Israel, Nathan the prophet of the most high God, Uriah a leader in the military and his beautiful wife Bathsheba. It sounds a bit like I am reading the cast of characters from a High School play bill? But these are relatives from our family tree. For those who did not have the benefit of Sunday school, or who have not thumbed their way through the biblical narrative, the story is painful, tragic, a story of wrong, a story of moral bankruptcy. It is a story of our human sickness and the stain of corruption upon us.

It was a horrible situation for David king of Israel. He had fallen for another man’s wife. He acted on his lust. Bathsheba conceives his child. David the king, in an attempt to cover up the affair, sent Uriah, husband of Bathsheba, to the front line. There it is that Uriah is killed in military battle. Bathsheba receives word that Uriah was killed. She laments Uriah’s death, moves into the palace, and becomes David’s wife. And while this plot sounds like it could be streamed on Netflix, Hulu, or Prime or be the storyline of a popular reality TV series, don’t lose sight of the fact that David’s actions displeased the Lord.

*Continued on next page...*

The Lord sent Nathan to David. Nathan the prophet arrives. He delivers God's word to David. The word comes as parable. Nathan said to David,

“There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.

The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle (meaning there was male and female and they could reproduce which in part was how wealth was created in ancient times), but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought.

He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children.

It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms.

It was like a daughter to him.”

“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him.

Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.” David is appalled at the crassness of the rich man!

Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!

The Bible, in the book of Second Samuel, tells in great detail Nathan's response. Nathan recited all that the Lord had done for David; how the Lord had provided for him, how the Lord had given him place and title and land and herds and flocks. Nathan concluded “why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight?”

David confessed his sin before the Lord. Nathan announced to David that the Lord had put away his sin and that he shall not die. Even though death is the punishment that David decreed for the terrible behavior of the rich man who took advantage of the poor man. Nevertheless there will be consequences for David's sin.

The parable highlights cynicism, selfishness, destruction and greed. These four remain prevalent in our own time. On this Ash Wednesday we make our confession to the Lord God who sent his Son to take our sin upon him. Purge me, cleanse me, make me right again; these are the things for which we plead on this Holy Day and for these 40 days of Lent. The Psalmist captures the need, not just for David, but for all of us to have our joy restored and the sustaining help of God's bountiful Spirit in our lives. The Bountiful Spirit of the Lord is sent in Christ Jesus who suffers death on a cross and is raised up promising life and salvation. Through the work of God accomplished in Jesus our sin is blotted out and the stain of sin removed. We enter into this season listening attentively to God's word. We are the ones for whom the Lord has pity. We know too well our own cynicism, selfishness, destruction and greed. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. 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.

<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?'"

or Isaiah 58:1-12 [not printed]

**Psalms 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>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."

**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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