

# ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE SC SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

(803) 787-4413    3909 FOREST DRIVE, COLUMBIA SC 29204    [WWW.GSLC.COM](http://WWW.GSLC.COM)

OFFICE HOURS: MON-THURS 9 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.; FRI 9 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

PRELUDE

SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO YOU

MANZ

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN 601

SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO YOU



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!

GREETING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 receive from  
 you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**READING**

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

A reading from Joel.

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.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

“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****PASTOR ANDREW ISENHOWER****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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious and merciful God, empower your church to be an ambassador of reconciliation in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious and merciful God, restore creation to wholeness and strengthen our resolve to be good stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious and merciful God, make this the acceptable time for peace. Guide the leaders of all nations to put an end to war and violence. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious and merciful God, deliver those in need: the hungry, the afflicted, the imprisoned, and the ill (*especially*), that their joy be restored. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious and merciful God, create a clean heart in all who worship here today and bless all who prepare during these forty days to be baptized at Easter. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious and merciful God, we give you thanks for all the saints who now partake in your heavenly treasure. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

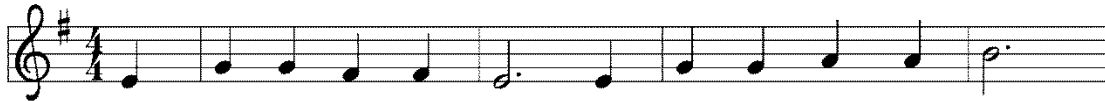
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

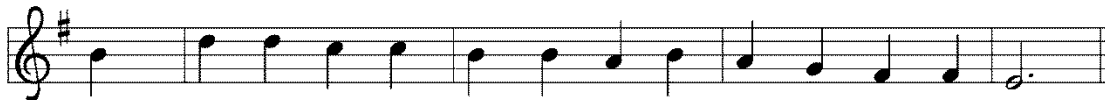
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN 599

### *LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME*



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.  
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.  
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

### ANDANTE

### KRIEGER