



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 14, 2024

New Hope Lutheran Church
3125 5th Ave S., Great Falls, MT 59405
406-315-1203

GATHERING

Gathering Music: Libera me

Gabriel Faure

Words of Welcome

Prelude: *Pie Jesu*

Ron Coons, alto saxophone

Gabriel Faure

L: We begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: Gracious God, My Heart Renew - A singing of Psalm 51

(tune: ELW #347)

1. Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true;
In your presence let me stay, by your Spirit show the way;
Your salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.
2. So shall sinners be restored and return to you, their Lord;
Savior, all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing your love;
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord.
3. Not the formal sacrifice has acceptance in your eyes;
Broken hearts are in your sight more than sacrificial rite;
Contrite spirit, pleading cries, you, O God, will not despise.
4. Prosper Zion in your grace and her broken walls replace:
Then our righteous sacrifice shall delight your holy eyes;
Free-will offerings, gladly made, on your altar shall be laid.

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... **C: 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

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Return to the Lord

ELW p. 142

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Tammy Bull

Hymn: Just As I Am, without One Plea

ELW #592

1. Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2. Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
3. Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
4. Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(silence for reflection & self-examination)

L: Most holy and merciful God,

C: 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.

L: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mid of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

L: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and true repentance. Let them also be a reminder of the depth of your love for us in Jesus, who gave everything in his death on the cross, that we might receive eternal life in his name. **C: Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes (*The congregation remains seated as our prayer of confession continues with quiet meditation. Please come forward as you desire to receive the ashes.*)

(*After all have received the ashes, our prayer of confession concludes...*)

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

L: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the People (*the congregation stands*)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

MEAL

Offertory: *Pavane*

Gabriel Faure

Offertory Prayer: **C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Don't cast me away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.**

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Return to God with all your heart. There is a place for you at the Lord's Table.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: For the Bread Which You Have Broken

ELW #494

1. For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,
For the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
2. By this promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored,
By your call to heav'n above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.
3. With the saints who now adore you, seated at the heav'nly board,
May the church still waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.
4. In your service, Lord, defend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;
In the world to which you send us let your kingdom come, O Lord.

L: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen us, comfort us, and keep us in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving... **C: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms a means of making peace, and let our prayer be the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

L: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you (+) peace. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: Lord Jesus, You Shall be My Song

ELW #808

1. Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
You alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.
2. Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
3. As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
To carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

4. I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
But courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the fam'ly you saved by your love,
We'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

L: 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. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Agnus Dei*

Gabriel Faure

ANNOUNCEMENTS for Ash Wednesday

- Lent Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer worship: Wednesdays beginning Feb. 21st.
Soup supper at 6:00 pm in the Social Hall, followed by worship at 6:45.

Attributions:

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