

C: We confess to You, O Lord that we have hoarded our gold and offering and have been unwise and foolish in our management of time in your service. Our prayers are erratic and selfish, and we have sought our kingdoms and not yours. For these and all other sins of thoughts and desires, of words and actions, we ask your forgiveness and your mercy.

Absolution*

L: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You do not desire the death of sinners, but rather You call us to turn from our wicked ways and live through our anointed Prophet the Christ. You have had mercy upon us. You graciously forgive our sins through the merits of our gracious and loving High Priest our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives according to Your will and keep us in Your grace to eternal life by the life we live in the Kingdom of Grace under our merciful King. You Promise us forgiveness through your Anointed One. Bless us for Jesus' sake and in His name.

C: Amen.

L: I, therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, in His stead and by His command, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn*

#94

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Pray for one another always.

C: Thanks be to God, And we will!

Offering - Please place offering in the offering box located on the welcome center in the narthex.



Order of Service for March 2, 2022

*congregation stands.

Welcome & Announcements

Responsive Reading – Psalm 51:1-13

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion; blot out my transgressions.

C: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

C: so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

L: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

C: Let me hear you and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

L: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

C: Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Hymn*

#117

Reading – Joel 2:12-17

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgement. Set us free from a past we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

#114

Gospel* – Matthew 6:1-4

Sermon

Imposition of Ashes (Hymn # 296 sung during imposition of ashes)

L: Almighty God, You created us out of the dust of the ground. May these ashes remind us that we are dust and shall return to dust. May they also remind us of the cross of Christ by which we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Litany of Confession*

L: Hail to the Lord's anointed, Great David's greater son! Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun! Let us come to Him confessing our sins because He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free, to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

C: We confess to You and to one another, that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Set us free from our oppressors and rule over us in mercy.

L: He comes with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong. To help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong.

C: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. We have failed to serve others as Christ has served us. We have forgotten that you want us to be your hands and feet of mercy.

L: To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turns to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in His sight.

C: We fail to share with vigor and enthusiasm the faith that is in us. We neglect prayer and worship. We often act with prejudice and contempt toward people who differ from us, rather than considering that they like us are objects of your mercy.

L: He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth: love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth, before Him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go; and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

C: We have been impatient as we wait for Your will to be done. We have sought to satisfy our own appetites by exploiting others. We envy those more fortunate than ourselves. Instead of seeking your peace we delight in conflict.

L: Kings shall fall down before Him and gold and incense bring; all nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing. To Him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

