

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Garry Mohr, Interim Pastor

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Hannah Lee, Organist

Kate Radford, Soprano

Bob Menzies & Anita Mork, Assistant Ministers

GATHERING

In keeping with the solemnity of this day of devotion, the people and the ministers assemble in silence.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1–17

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness, and cleanse me | from my sin.

³For I know | my offenses, and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴Against 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.

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸Let me hear | joy and gladness; that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face | from my sins, and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God, and renew a right spir- | it within me.

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of | your salvation and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders, and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips, and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.



Hill Ave Grace
Lutheran Church

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or ¹I would give it.

You are not pleased ¹with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a ¹troubled spirit;

a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will ¹not despise.

In the name of the Father, and † the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

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.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Garry Mohr

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

ELW 319

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

INVITATION TO THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

CONFESSION

Let us *stand* before God, our creator and redeemer, and confess our sin.

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 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 not listened 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.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you our self-indulgence, and our exploitation of other people.
Have mercy on us, O God.

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

We confess to you our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.
Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Bless these ashes and those who receive them. May this sign of our mortality and penitence remind us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

People may kneel or stand to receive the ashes.

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

The presiding minister leads the conclusion to the confession:

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

that we may show forth your glory in the world.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All are invited into a time of reflection before they receive communion. During this time, you may prepare your hearts to receive the sacrament. Once ready, you may commune yourself and those around you with the bread and wine/grape juice. A representative from each household may say the following—bread: **“The body of Christ given for you.”** Wine/grape juice: **“The blood of Christ shed for you.”***

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

BLESSING

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

Postlude

Hannah Lee

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Calendar This Week		
Today	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Virtual & In-Person Service
Thurs 2/15/24	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Sat 2/17/24	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open
Sun 2/18/24	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship

Mark Your 2024 Calendar:	
Wednesdays 2/21-3/20/24	Mid-Week Lent Service Virtual & In-Person
3/24/24	Palm Sunday
3/28/24	Maundy Thursday
3/29/24	Good Friday
3/31/24	Easter Sunday

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14 with Ash Wednesday. We will have service at 7 PM, both in person and available via Zoom and FB live. We hope you will join us as we welcome the season of Lent and prepare to journey through Lent to the joy of Easter.

The theme for Lent this year will be "Journey with Jesus."

Dick Branson joined the Church Triumphant this past Saturday afternoon. He passed away peacefully to be with His Lord, surrounded by family and friends who encouraged each other with love and faith. Dick will be cremated, and a memorial service will be announced soon.

Complete the Time and Talent Survey for 2024! We ask our fellow HAGL members and friends to take a few moments to look at the opportunities to use your skills and gifts to serve. We all have an opportunity to share these gifts from God and help others in a variety of ways. Check out the survey in the narthex or contact the office for a copy! Please send in your responses in person, by mail or email to the office by February 25th!

Join us this Wednesday at 7 pm for our Virtual Worship via Zoom!

You may also join us on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing your faces and worshipping together!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95007590439?pwd=M2NmMUZCZzhMOUY0SG8xeHpzcU5RUT09>

Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439

Passcode: worship

One tap mobile

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439

Passcode: 4584517

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Join us on Wednesdays at 7PM for a mid-week Lenten service, either in-person or via Zoom or Facebook Live. The Zoom link will be the same as our regular Sunday worship.

We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer for the mid-week Lent services. Come join us!

We are back to joining at the altar for communion. We will be going up the center aisle and returning down the side aisles. If you are not comfortable with that, pick up a communion set at the table in the narthex and then proceed into the sanctuary. There will be 3 options for communion: bread and wine, bread and juice, and gluten-free bread and wine. Only take one set for yourself. Wait for communion instructions before opening the packet.

The service will still be available on Zoom and Facebook Live for those who prefer to remain at home. If you have questions, please let our church office know. We look forward to actually seeing you at church!

