

Most holy and merciful God,

We confess to you and to one another, and to 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.

Imposition of Ashes

Receiving ashes is a symbol of our mortality as human beings. The words that accompany the imposition of ashes are even more important: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May our Lenten fasting and good works be signs of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

People may come forward to receive the ashes. For those who prefer to remain seated, or who are watching online, after the Imposition of Ashes is completed, you may make the sign of the cross on your forehead, as the minister says,

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

Music at the Imposition of Ashes

The minister continues.

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, of Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Forgiveness

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.

Amen.

Anthem (7:00 pm)

“Dust and Ashes”

David Haas

Dust and ashes touch our face, mark our failure and our falling. Holy spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow, take us as disciples, washed and wakened by your calling.

Refrain: Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the desert sands, bring us living water, Holy Spirit, come.

Dust and ashes soil our hands, greed of market, pride of nation. Holy Spirit come, walk with us tomorrow, as we pray and struggle through the meshes of oppression. Refrain

WORD

First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow 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— ²a 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. ¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend 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. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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. ¹⁷Between 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.

Psalm 51:1-17

(read responsively)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

²**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

6You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
7Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
9Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
10Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
11Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
12Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.
13Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
14Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
15O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
16For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
17The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

20bWe entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 6As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord, Your God” from *Holy Communion Setting Three* (ELW pg. 142)

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.

Please stand as able.

The Holy Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Homily

“Rend your hearts”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Our Father, We Have Wandered” ELW 606

HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN

1. Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,
as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.
2. And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
3. O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving, and ever-caring Lord,
grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006, © 1998 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.. Music: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612 arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Prayers of Intercession

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

The congregation may sit or kneel for the Prayers.

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *A brief silence.*

You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen your church in every nation and language to proclaim the gospel of your love for this world with courage in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats, and teach us to tread lightly upon Earth with a spirit that honors this planet as your creation and the home of all nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You seek justice and peace, righteous God. We pray for peace and an end to wars in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan. Guide global leaders to work for peace and to provide welcome and assistance for refugees and strangers in new communities. Grant patience in negotiations that will lead to lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You care for all people, loving God. Heal all who are scarred by violence, trauma, and addiction; bless the sick and the dying; and comfort all who grieve. We ask that you strengthen and bless: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, David Kutscher, Oakley Coburn, Arlene Fielding, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Shirley Larson, Ingrid Keiris, Martha Stackel, Tina Wiland, Ben Watson, Louisa Coburn, Mindy Curley, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Sarah Lindberg, Marilyn Denison, Eileen Dunlap, Christopher Shirley, Tanner Grant, Michael Frye, Ken Foust, Gene Ellington, Laura Elliott, Norma Alexander, Drew Goodson, Linda Carter, and Greg Bruce. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You continue to gather this congregation, abiding God. Unite us in service to our neighbors as we work to reveal your justice for all people. Bless our ministries that through our work your love and healing be revealed to our community as an living sign of hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for all the saints who have served you in this place. Like them, lead us on our human journeys and unite us with all the saints into everlasting joy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, Our Savior

Amen.

Please stand as able.

MEAL

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Words of Institution

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.
Come to this meal and be fed.

Please be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered continuously in front of the freestanding altar, or at the rail of the high altar in two ways, by "Communion Kit" or wafer and wine in a small cup. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station, and returning via the side aisles. If receiving a "kit" please seal the used utensils in the zip-lock bag, placing the bag after worship in the marked bowl in the Narthex. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.

Communion Music

"O Man, Lament Your Great Sin" BWV 622

Johann Sebastian Bach

"Set Me As a Seal Upon Your Heart" (7:00 pm) Anna Laura Page

Set me as a seal upon Your heart, O God, for love is as strong as death. The waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. Set me as a seal upon Your heart. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a strong spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence. Cast me not away from Your presence. Restore unto me the joy of salvation. Uphold me with Your Spirit. Then I'll teach Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You. Set me as a seal upon Your heart.

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you † that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

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.

Thanks be to God.

The service ends in silence.

† † †

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; lector: Meg Fielding (7:00 pm); musicians: St. Mark's Choir (7:00 pm), Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Lenten Mid-Week Worship series: "*Holy Lament: God's Presence in times of Distress*" During Lent, please join us Wednesdays (2/21-3/20), at 7 pm in person and live on Facebook, for the weekly Lenten series.

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Wednesday Supper 6 pm-6:45 pm Fellowship Hall, beginning February 21.

Lenten Midweek Worship 7 pm (in-person and online)

LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS: During Lent we focus on Jesus' path to the cross and his sacrifice for us. One of our small sacrifices during this period is our donations into a small Lenten box. Boxes will be passed out after the service today and again on Sunday. The letter with the boxes explains the recipient of this year's donations - REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES. Infant care kits will be purchased for the little ones of our recently arrived refugees. Be sure to put your name on the box along with your envelope number if you have one. Donations can be made several ways - daily loose change, paper money, or simply write a check to St. Mark's and put it in the box. Keep the box where you can see it as a constant reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and the infants we will be helping. Please return to church before Easter.

St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, David Kutscher, Oakley Coburn, Arlene Fielding, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Shirley Larson, Ingrid Keiris, Martha Stackel, Tina Wiland, Ben Watson, Louisa Coburn, Mindy Curley, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Sarah Lindberg, Marilyn Denison, Eileen Dunlap, Christopher Shirley, Tanner Grant, Michael Frye, Ken Foust, Gene Ellington, Laura Elliot, Norma Alexander, Drew Goodson, Linda Carter, and Greg Bruce.

Please feel free to email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests

(pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

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