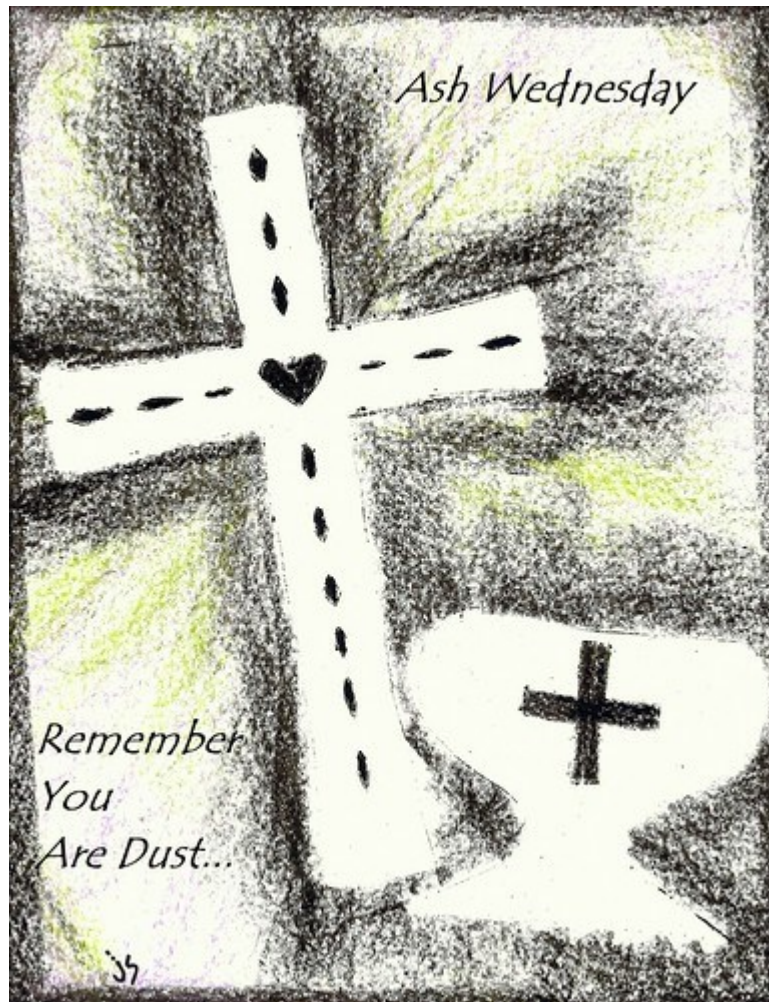


ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024



SAINT MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annapolis, Maryland

THE PSALM

Psalm 51:1-17

Read responsively

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴**Against 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.
- ⁶**Indeed, 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 purer than snow.
- ⁸**Let 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.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy
Spirit from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with
your bountiful Spirit.**
- ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be
restored to you.
- ¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my
tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**
- ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken
heart, O God, you will not despise.

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.**

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.**

THE EPISTLE LESSON

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20-6:10

²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin^[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ⁶ As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you."^[b] I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Spoken together in unison)

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 15:11-24

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹¹Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

The Gospel of The Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

Our Father, We Have Wandered

ELW 606



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

INVITATION TO LENT

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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

People may come forward to receive the ashes, kneeling as you are able. You are invited to stay for a moment of prayer as you desire and then return to your seat. After all have received the imposition of ashes, the service 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, our Savior,

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

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

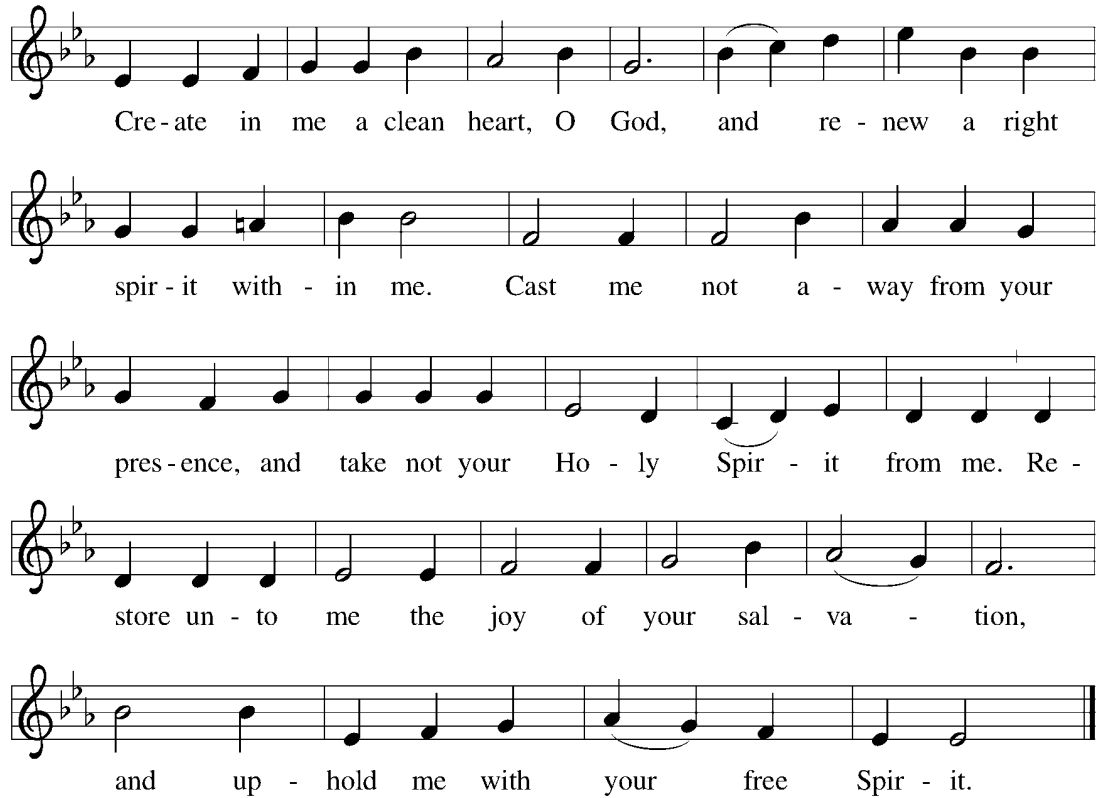
To the words "Lord, in your mercy," the congregation responds "**Hear our prayer.**"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW 188



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together,

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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.

WE SHARE THE HOLY MEAL

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray together,

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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

THE DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation leaves in silence.

Serving in Worship Today	
Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Dave Oravec
Assisting Minister	Linda Wetz
Organist	Kim Rosekrans
Altar Set Up	Altar Guild

ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

1120 Spa Road, Annapolis, MD 21403

StMartinsAnnapolis.org

410-263-4723

During the season of Lent, we encourage everyone to keep the disciplines of faith. Most important in this respect is our worship life together. In addition to our 8 and 10 o'clock Sunday services, we also invite you to return each Wednesday evening for a brief service in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM. During Lent, Pastor Dave will focus on the spiritual disciples wherein we build our lives of faith upon the love of Jesus Christ. We hope that you will come, learn, and grow as we journey through the 40 days and grow together!

Please remember that on Sunday, February 25th at 3 PM, we welcome guest soprano, Ayanna Freelon who will perform with our own Junghoon Park. This will be a very special concert and we hope that you will come and bring guests. There is no cost for this concert, however, a free will offering will be received to further our music ministry at St. Martin's as we reach into our community with God's great gift of music.

Tonight, we will participate in a special community Ash Wednesday service to be held at Calvary United Methodist Church on Rowe Blvd. Should you know people who were unable to attend this noontime service, please invite them to worship this evening.

Opportunities This Week

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

- 12:00 pm** Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)
7:00 pm Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service (Calvary United Methodist Church)

Thursday, February 23, 2023

- 11:30 am** Mid-day Bible Study (Double T)

Saturday, February 24, 2023

- 6:00 pm** Bulldog Bash (Gym)

Sunday, February 25, 2023

- 8:00 am** Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
3:00 pm Concert - Junghoon Park and Ayanna Freelon (Sanctuary)

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