Psalm 51:1-17

1 Have 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. 3 For 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. 5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. 6 You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Psalm 32

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah 6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. 7 You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah 8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. 9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. 10 Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. 11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; 31 and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’

Consider a Lenten Discipline – Lent is one particular time in the church when many people will take on a deeper spiritual discipline in order to strengthen their faith. Bible reading, daily devotions, volunteer service, regular prayer, weekly worship, or sacrificial giving to organizations are some suggestions. Attention to these disciplines gives space for God to work and for our faith life to be stretched.

CONFESSION

P: Holy and merciful God,
C: We confess to you and to one another in the presence of the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P: 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, Lord.

P: We have been deaf 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.
C: Have Mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to you Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.
C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Forgive us for our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
C: We confess to you, Lord.
Forgive us for our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

Forgive us for our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

Accept our repentance Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

O God who will not let us go, open our hearts wide to you, that you might renew our faith and strengthen us for obedient service.

For those who desire, come to the altar area where you will be marked with the sign of the cross on your forehead with ashes. We invite you to use the altar rails as a place to kneel for prayer and reflection. You may also return to your seats and reflect on Psalm 51.

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

On this Ash Wednesday bring to our consciousness Lord the truth that it is from the dust we came and to the dust we will return. Between these moments of dust, let us shine as those "crowned...with glory and honor" (Psalm 8:5). Bring it to pass as we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

With the knowledge of death and resurrection of Jesus, the imposition of ashes is symbolic of the beginning of our Lenten journey; a time where we once again recognize how God sent Jesus into this world to bind up our brokenness, forgive our sins and save us from despair and hopelessness. Today the Lenten journey begins with the truth of our mortality (to dust you shall return) and a recognition of our deep sinfulness (words of confession). Lent will end on Easter morning with the proclamation of God’s power over death and God’s gift to us in new life! As you participate, we would encourage you to reflect on the sign of the cross traced on your forehead as the ultimate sign of the reality of sin as well as the ultimate sign of God’s love for sinners! We invite you to reflect on Psalm 51 (see back of bulletin).

Psalm 32

*GOSPEL

Mark 9:30-37

P: Word of God, Word of life C: Thanks be to God

Sermon “Living Loved” Intern Pastor Anne Jackson

Hymn of the Day “O Lord throughout these Forty Days” ELW # 319

*Prayers of the Church

(After each petition, respond “Hear our prayer.”)

Offering

*Offertery Response “Create in Me” ELW, Page 152

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father  C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The LORD be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the LORD.

P: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God. C: It is right to give him thanks and praise. P: It is indeed right and salutary… and join their unending hymn:

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord. Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. Hosanna in the highest.

*Words of Institution/Lord’s Prayer

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.

Holy Communion

“Let Us Break Bread Together” ELW # 471

“We are Called” ELW # 720

Blessing & Prayer

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn “Abide With Me” ELW # 629

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace; serve the Lord! C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

(* = Please stand, if you are able.)

(ELW = The red hymnal, located in your pew.)