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**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**  
Ash Wednesday

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Series Theme  
**Baptized into His Death**

St. Paul writes, “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?” (Romans 6:3). There is a connection between our baptism and Christ’s passion. This makes Lent the perfect season to learn anew all that which God’s Word tells us about Baptism. We will see how we were powerfully connected in our baptism to all Christ’s saving work. We will study again what our baptism means for our daily lives. And we will rededicate ourselves to the struggle of living the new life Baptism gives.

**Invocation**

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

# Psalm 51

## Setting Two



1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your un - fail - ing love;  
4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;



1 according to your great compassion blot out my trans - gres - sions.  
4 so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.  
7 wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.



2 Wash away all my in - iq - ui - ty  
5 Surely I was sinful at birth,  
8 Let me hear joy and glad - ness;



2 and cleanse me from my sin.  
5 sinful from the time my mother con - ceived me.  
8 let the bones you have crushed re - joice.



3 For I know my trans - gres - sions,  
6 Surely you desire truth in the in - ner parts;  
9 Hide your face from my sins



3 and my sin is always be - fore me.  
6 you teach me wisdom in the in - most place.  
9 and blot out all my in - iq - ui - ty.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

10 and renew a steadfast spirit with - in me.  
 13 and sinners will turn back to you.  
 16 you do not take pleasure in burnt of - fer - ings.

11 Do not cast me from your pres - ence  
 14 Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me,  
 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spir - it;

11 or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
 14 and my tongue will sing of your right - eous - ness.  
 17 a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not de - spise.

12 Restore to me the joy of your sal - va - tion  
 15 O Lord, open my lips,  
 18 In your good pleasure make Zion pros - per;  
 19 Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to de - light you;

12 and grant me a willing spirit, to sus - tain me.  
 15 and my mouth will de - clare your praise.  
 18 build up the walls of Je - ru - sa - lem.  
 19 then bulls will be offered on your al - tar.

## **Psalm Prayer**

Almighty and merciful Father, you freely forgive those who, as David of old, acknowledge and confess their sins. Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Introduction for the Beginning of lent**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbours, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and our neighbour.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, to ask our Heavenly Father for forgiveness, and to open your heart before Him.

## Confession of Sins

P: Holy and merciful Father,

**C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned**

**by our own fault, by our own grievous 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 neighbours 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 the 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, O Lord.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people –

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

P: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves –

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

P: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work –

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

P: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us –

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

P: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us –

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will –

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us –

**C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

### Hymn

*CW 303:1-2,4* With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh

**With broken heart and contrite sigh,  
A trembling sinner, Lord, I cry.  
Your pard'ning grace is rich and free  
O God, be merciful to me!**

**I smite upon my troubled breast,  
With deep and conscious guilt oppressed,  
Christ and his cross my only plea  
O God, be merciful to me!**

**No gifts, no deeds that I have done  
Can for a single sin atone.  
To Calvary alone I flee  
O God, be merciful to me!**

*(A moment of silence for reflection and personal confession)*

### **Absolution**

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He is ready, willing, and able to forgive all your sins.

Therefore, as a called servant of the word – and by His authority - I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son †, and of the Holy Spirit.

May the LORD's forgiveness strengthen your faith, awaken peace and joy in your heart, and move you to thank Him by living according to his Word.

C: **Amen.**

### **Hymn**

*CW 124* Savior, When in Dust to You

**1 Savior, when in dust to you  
Low we bow in homage due,  
When, repentant, to the skies  
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
Oh, by all your pains and woe  
Suffered once for us below,  
Bending from your throne on high,  
Hear our penitential cry!**

**2 By your helpless infant years,  
By your life of want and tears,  
By your days of deep distress  
In the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour  
Of th' insulting tempter's pow'r,  
Turn, oh, turn a fav'ring eye,  
Hear our penitential cry!**

**3 By your hour of dire despair,  
By your agony of prayer,  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies  
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,  
Listen to our humble sigh,  
Hear our penitential cry!**

**4 By your deep expiring groan,  
By the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode  
Held in vain the rising God,  
Oh, from earth to heav'n restored,  
Mighty, reascended Lord,  
Bending from your throne on high,  
Hear our penitential cry!**

### **Old Testament Lesson**

Joel 2:12-19 (EHV)

*Through the prophet Joel, the LORD tells us that our top priority is to return to him in true repentance. We will find that the LORD is gracious and compassionate.*

<sup>12</sup>Even now, declares the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting and weeping and grief.

<sup>13</sup>Tear your heart and not your clothing.  
Return to the LORD your God,  
for he is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and abounding in mercy,  
and he relents from sending disaster.



<sup>14</sup>Who knows?

He may turn and have pity and leave behind a  
blessing—  
grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your  
God.

<sup>15</sup>Blow the ram's horn in Zion.

Set aside a day for fasting.

Call a solemn convocation.

<sup>16</sup>Gather the people.

Consecrate the assembly.

Bring together the elders.

Gather the children, even those nursing at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,

and the bride her chamber.

<sup>17</sup>Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,  
weep between the temple porch and the altar.

Let them say:

Have compassion on your people, O LORD.

Do not subject the inheritance you have given us to  
the scorn of the nations.

Do not make us notorious among the nations as an  
object of ridicule.

Why should they say among the peoples,  
“Where is their God?”

<sup>18</sup>The LORD is zealous for his land,  
and he will take pity on his people.

<sup>19</sup>The LORD will respond to them:

I am sending you grain, new wine, and fresh oil,  
enough to satisfy you fully.

Never again will I subject you to scorn among the  
nations.

## Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Epistle Lesson

Revelation 3:1-3 (EHV)

*Jesus tells a spiritually dead church what their top priority should be: wake up, repent, and remember what they had heard about God's grace.*

To the messenger of the church in Sardis write:

The one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says this:

I know your works. You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup>Wake up, and strengthen what is left, which is about to die, for I have found that your works are not complete in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup>Therefore remember what you received and heard. Hold on to it and repent! If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come upon you.

## Hymn

CW 305 From Depths of Woe I Cry to You

**1 From depths of woe I cry to you;  
Lord, hear me, I implore you.  
Bend down your gracious ear to me;  
My prayer let come before you.  
If you kept record of my sin  
And held against me what I've been,  
How could I stand before you?**

**2 Your love and grace alone avail  
To blot out my transgression.  
The best and holiest deeds must fail  
To break sin's dread oppression.  
Before you none can boasting stand,  
But all must fear your strict demand  
And live alone by mercy.**

**3 Therefore my hope is in the Lord  
And not in my own merit;  
It rests upon his faithful Word  
To them of contrite spirit.  
That he is merciful and just—  
This is my comfort and my trust.  
His help I wait with patience.**

**4 My soul is waiting for the Lord  
As one who longs for morning;  
No watcher waits with greater hope  
Than I for his returning.  
I hope as Israel in the Lord;  
He sends redemption through his Word.  
We praise him for his mercy.**

## **Lenten Devotional Text & Theme**

Acts 2:36-39 (EHV)

### **The Comforting Relationship between Baptism and Repentance.**

- 1) *Repentance is a change of mind.*
- 2) *In Baptism, God grants us that change.*

<sup>36</sup>“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Gentlemen, brothers, what should we do?”

<sup>38</sup>Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

### **Prayer for Ash Wednesday**

P: Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.**

P: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.**

P: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Saviour's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

**C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen**

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**1 O holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Your glory, earth and heaven  
In countless ways recite.  
Hosanna! Come and save us,  
Lord God of hosts on high,  
And in your grace and mercy  
Receive our fervent cry.**

**2 Hosanna in the highest!  
How truly blest is he  
Who in God's name is coming  
To set his people free!  
He comes to bring salvation  
And with his blood outpoured,  
Deliver us from bondage—  
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

### Hymn

CW 258 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

*Stanzas 1, 2, 3*

**Lamb of God, pure and holy,  
Who on the cross did suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly,  
Yourself to scorn did offer.  
All sins you carried for us,  
Else had despair reigned o'er us:**

**1 Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

**2 Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

**3 Your peace be with us, O Jesus!**

### Distribution And Thanksgiving

**M:** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C:** **And his mercy endures forever.**

**M:** We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### Blessing

**M:** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: Amen.**

### Hymn

*CW 319 On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

**On my heart imprint your image,  
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures  
Have no pow'r to hide your face.  
This the superscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation,  
And my glory and salvation.**



### Divine Word Evangelical Lutheran Church

1081 Greenbank Rd.,  
Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8  
613-825-1629

[www.divinewordottawa.ca](http://www.divinewordottawa.ca)



## ***Midweek Lenten Services - Baptized into His Death***

St. Paul writes, “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?” (Romans 6:3). There is a connection between our baptism and Christ’s passion. This makes Lent the perfect season to learn anew all that which God’s Word tells us about Baptism. We will see how we were powerfully connected in our baptism to all Christ’s saving work. We will study again what our baptism means for our daily lives. And we will rededicate ourselves to the struggle of living the new life Baptism gives.

**Feb. 21** – A Great Power and a Greater Gift  
Titus 3:4-7

*Led by: Pastor Digman*

**Feb. 28** – A Sacrament not a Sign  
1 Peter 3:18-22

*Led by: Pastor Kock*

**Mar. 6** – Reliving your Baptism Every Day  
Matthew 21:12-17.

*Led by: Pastor Sullivan*

**Mar. 13** – Baptism is Needed by All  
John 3:1-8

*Led by: Pastor Digman*

**Mar. 20** – The Right Tool for this Job  
Matthew 28:18-20

*Led by: Pastor Kock*