

## The Lord's Prayer

*L: Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:*

**C: 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

*L: Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.*

## Imposition of Ashes and Communion Distribution

**Communion Hymn No. 324 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"**

**Communion Hymn No. 337**

**"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"**

**Communion Hymn No. 338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"**

## Concluding Prayer

*L: 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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

## Announcements

*L: As we begin these forty days, we want to make you aware of possibilities here at First St. Paul's for additional discipleship, worship and service...*

## Blessing

*L: God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.*

**Amen.**

**Hymn No. 327 "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"**

## Dismissal

*L: Go in peace. Serve in love.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

## First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, LCMC

**February 22, 2023**

501 N. Burlington Ave. • Hastings, NE 68901 • 402-463-1329

 @firststpauls • www.firststpauls.org

**Connections Educational Hour:** 9:30 a.m.

**Radio:** 1230 AM - 11:00 a.m.

**Charter/Spectrum:** Ch. 181 - Sun. 2:30 p.m.; Wed. 2:00 p.m.

**Good Samaritan Village:** Ch. 3 - Sun. 6:00 p.m.; Wed. 11:00 a.m.

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*Pastor Joel Remmers, Senior Pastor*

*Chad Power, Pastoral Assistant | Seminarian*

*Ann Auten, Director of Worship, Music and Children's Ministry | Seminarian*

*Megan Lockling, Director of Finance*

*Jotie Montague, Director of Administrative Support*

*Alexa Hintz, Youth & Communications Director*

*Blake Harrenstein, Communication Intern*

*Custodial Staff:*

*Jon Martin*

*Organists:*

*Helen Karloff*

*Donna Kerr*

*Becky Conway*

*Barbara Hohlen, Director of Handbell Choir*

*Kristen Janda, Director of Joyful Noises*

*Kathy Adelson, Director of Cherub Choir*

*Heidi Sherman, Nursery Assistant*

*Cheyenne McVey, Nursery Assistant*

*Becky Conway, Director of "God Made Me" Preschool*

*Amy Stutesman, "God Made Me" Preschool Assistant*

*Betty Knott, "God Made Me" Preschool Assistant*

*A Stephen's Ministry Congregation*

*Missionary:*

*Pastor Tom Lovan*

*Lutheran Asian Ministry*

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firststpauls@firststpauls.org • www.firststpauls.org

**Ash Wednesday Worship – February 22, 2023- 12:10 & 7:00 p.m.**

## We Gather in Silence

**Opening Hymn No. 608**

**"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"**

## Greeting

*L: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

## Invitation to Lent

*L: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.*

## Confession of Sin

*L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most holy and merciful God,*

**C: 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.**

*L: 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, O God.**

*L: 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.*

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

*L: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.*

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: *Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.*

C: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: *Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.*

C: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: *Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.*

C: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: *Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.*

C: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: *Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.*

C: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: *Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.*

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

### First Reading

Joel 2:1-2; 12-17 — Pages 740-741

L: *The word of the Lord.*

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading

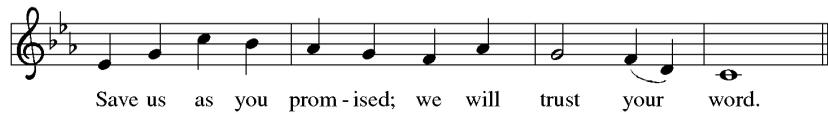
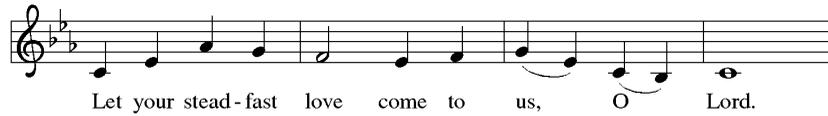
Psalm 51:1-17 — Pages 452-453

L: *The word of the Lord.*

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

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### Gospel Reading

L: *The holy gospel according to Matthew*

M: .

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21 — Page 787

L: *The gospel of the Lord.*

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Hymn No. 801

“Change My Heart, O God”

Sermon

Pastor Joel Remmers

### Hymn No. 606

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

### Apostles’ Creed

Page 217

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Offering

### Prayers of Intercession

L: *Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.*

*A brief silence.*

L: *We pray for the church. Turn it toward you, loving God, and unite it in a desire to live for you alone. Hear us, O God.*

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: *Sustain in us a willing spirit to care for the earth and all that lives on it, knowing that we are stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God.*

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: *We pray for the nations. Let no one put an obstacle in the way of those seeking your justice, peace, and love. Hear us, O God.*

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: *Let your light break forth and shine on those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Let your healing spring up quickly. Hear us, O God.*

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: *Guide this assembly constantly back to your word, your holy meal, and the unfailing waters of baptism. Hear us, O God.*

C: **You mercy is great.**

L: *We give thanks for the lives of the faithful departed who have returned to the dust and thus to you. Inspire us by their examples of holy living. Hear us, O God.*

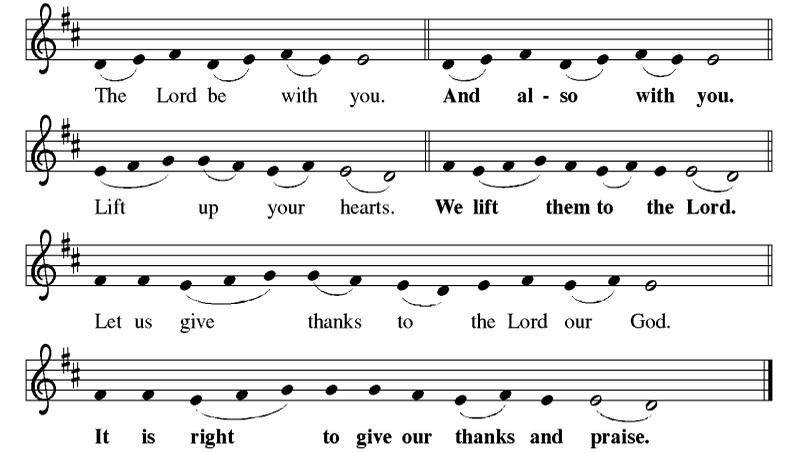
C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: *Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.*

C: **Amen.**

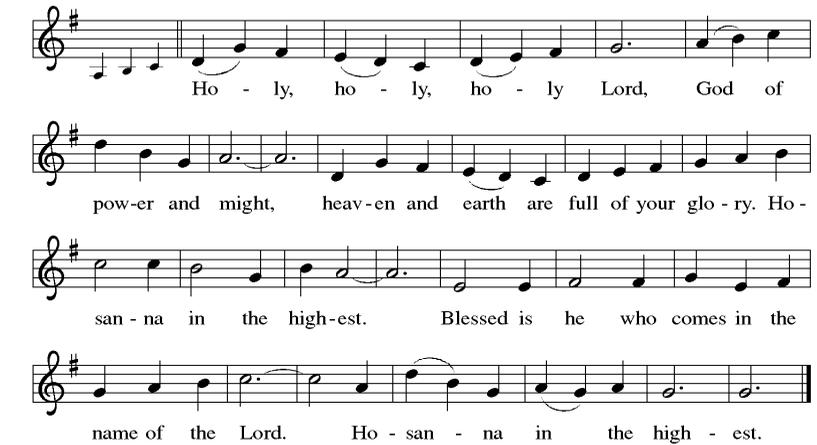
### Dialogue

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### Preface

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### Thanksgiving at the Table

L: *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.*