

# **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 2021**

**17th February at 6.00pm**

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
170 Flinders Street, Adelaide*

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

Come back to the Lord, your God.

**He is kind and full of mercy;**

He is patient and keeps his promise;

**He is always ready to forgive and not punish** (*Joel 2:13b TEV*)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN LHS 305**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray for God's mercy:

Almighty and eternal God, since you hate nothing that you have made, but forgive the sins of all who repent:

Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, who lament our sins and acknowledge our wretchedness may obtain from you perfect forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **READINGS**

**1st Reading - Isaiah 58:1-12** - *A feast acceptable to the Lord*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 51:1-12** - *Choir Chant* (L. Flintoft) verses 1-18

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

*Be reconciled to God*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Christ humbled himself, and became obedient unto death;  
even death on a cross (sung)**

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## Gospel Reading:

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21** *Giving to the poor, praying and fasting*

**Glory be to you, O Lord (sung)**

(after the gospel)

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise be to you, O Christ (sung)**

**CHOIR:** *Thou knowest the secrets of our hearts –*  
Henry Purcell

## SERMON

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

#### Response:

We are all born weak and helpless.

**All lead the same short, troubled life.**

We grow and wither as quickly as flowers; we disappear like shadows

**In the midst of life we are in death.**

To whom can we go for help, but to you, Lord God,

**though you are rightly displeased because of our sins?**

And yet, Lord God Almighty, most holy and most merciful Saviour,

**deliver us from the bitterness of eternal death.**

You know the secrets of our hearts;

**mercifully hear us, most worthy judge eternal;**

keep us, at our last hour, in the consolation of your love.

**Amen.**

Dust we are and to dust we shall return.

**Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.**

May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that we receive eternal life by God's gift alone, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

## HYMN 53

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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## HOLY COMMUNION

### PREFACE

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord

**For that is fitting and right.**

It is truly fitting and right and for our lasting good, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God through Jesus Christ our Lord. For he has taken upon himself our sin, that we, being dead to sin, should live to righteousness. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we adore and magnify your glorious name, ever more praising you and saying:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;  
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.**

### 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, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

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## **LAMB OF GOD**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace.**

**Amen.**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMN 69**

**CHOIR:** *Create a pure heart in me* – Susan Matsui

## **DISMISSAL**

### **PRAYER**

Lord God, heavenly Father,  
you desire to be merciful and are always more willing to pardon  
than to condemn. Listen to the prayers of your penitent people,  
who have received the body and blood of your Son  
in this sacrament, and in your goodness set free all who are  
trapped in sin. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Christ our crucified Saviour draw you to Himself,  
so that you may find in him the assurance of sins forgiven and  
the gift of eternal life; and the blessing of God the Father, Son  
and Holy Spirit be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN 756**

## **POSTLUDE**

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