

JOEL 2:12

Return
to God
with
all your
heart

Called by the Spirit, we serve Christ, sharing God's love with all.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEBSITE: firstlutherantopeka.org

1234 Fairlawn Road, Topeka, KS 66604

Church office: (785) 272-5302 CDO office: (785) 272-5999

Ministers

Senior Pastor

Coordinator of Stewardship and Outreach

Children's Day Out (CDO) Director

Caring for Kids 1st Director

Organist

Director of Music

Director of Handbell Choirs

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Bookkeeper

Missionaries in Russia

Missionaries for Ripe For Harvest World Outreach

All Members of First

Pastor Jenny Jackson

Pastor Bob Dealey

Julie Lamott

Julie Bradley

Jerry Anderson

Mark Fuller

Linda Anderson

LaDonna J. Little

Jill Loomans

Cindy Crawford

Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle

Jim & Dawn Anderson

UPDATES FOR COVID PROTOCOLS

Due to the increased health of our community and in continued awareness of CDC and county health guidelines for safe gatherings, our congregation has implemented the following practices effective February 24, 2022.

NEWLY ADJUSTED PRACTICES

- Congregational singing resumed.
- Social Distancing in the pews has been removed.
- Communion has returned to pre-Covid practices of inviting members to come forward to receive the holy wafer and cup of wine.
- There will no longer be a staggered dismissal.

CURRENT PRACTICES THAT WILL REMAIN until continued improvement in community health:

- Masks are still required (especially since we are no longer social distancing and are now singing again).
- Sharing the peace will still be done from the pews.
- The offering plate will remain at the back of the sanctuary at the bulletin table.

The committee continues to faithfully review our community health score that is shared by the health department. Our current objective is to witness two weeks of increased community health in the 'yellow' or 'moderate' rank. To learn more about this, go to

https://www.snco.us/HD/Document/Severity_Indicator_02242022.png

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

Setting 3

March 2, 2022

7:00 p.m.

PRELUDE “O God be Merciful unto Me” (BWV 721)

(J. S. Bach)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.

C: We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.

A: Having received the water of baptism,

C: we come to be marked now with ashes.

A: May we humble ourselves before God, not with a yoke of burden,

C: but with a mantle of freedom in Jesus' name.

PSALM 51:1-18 (*Spoken Responsively with Assisting Minister*)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; 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 transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

⁵And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

⁶**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.**

⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

¹⁰**Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹²**Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

¹⁴**I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.**

¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

¹⁶**Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

¹⁸**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: 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.

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, O God.

P: 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.

P: 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.

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

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

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

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

P: Friends, God is for us, not against us. For that very reason, God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption. Let sorrow and sighing be no more, for we are forgiven.

C: Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: We bow our heads before you, O God, aware of our sinfulness and our shortcomings. Remembering our baptism, the watermark of the cross upon us, we also receive this ashen cross upon our foreheads--another sign that in life and in death, we belong to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we pray.

C: Amen.

Congregation shall sit.

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward and kneel or stand as able at the communion rail.

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

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

P: 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

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?'"

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Out of love for humankind, the Sinless One experienced sin and suffering so that the redemptive power of God could penetrate the darkest, most forbidding, and tragic depths of human experience. No aspect of human life is ignored by the presence of God's grace. Because of this, Paul announces that this day is a day of God's grace, an acceptable time to turn toward God's mercy.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see -- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

601 HYMN "Savior, When in Dust to You" Stanzas 1 and 3

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation shall sit.

SERMON

608 HYMN OF THE DAY “*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*”

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

NICENE CREED

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**
Through him all things were made.
**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Encourage believers who hold the church's doors open to those who have felt excluded. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: We read in second Corinthians, Paul says, "Finally, siblings in Christ, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace. And may the God of love and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Brief word about peace: *As we practice Social Distancing, the sharing of the peace will take place as we remain in our pews: waving, bowing, blessing, or sharing the peace sign with our fellow worshipers.*

Congregation shall sit.

ANTHEM "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

(arr. G. Martin)

Brief word about offering: *Offering plates are available at the back of the worship space, on the bulletin table. To give online, please go to FirstLutheranTopeka.org and click on 'contribute'.*

Please place attendance form in the offering plate.

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Extravagant God,

C: you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

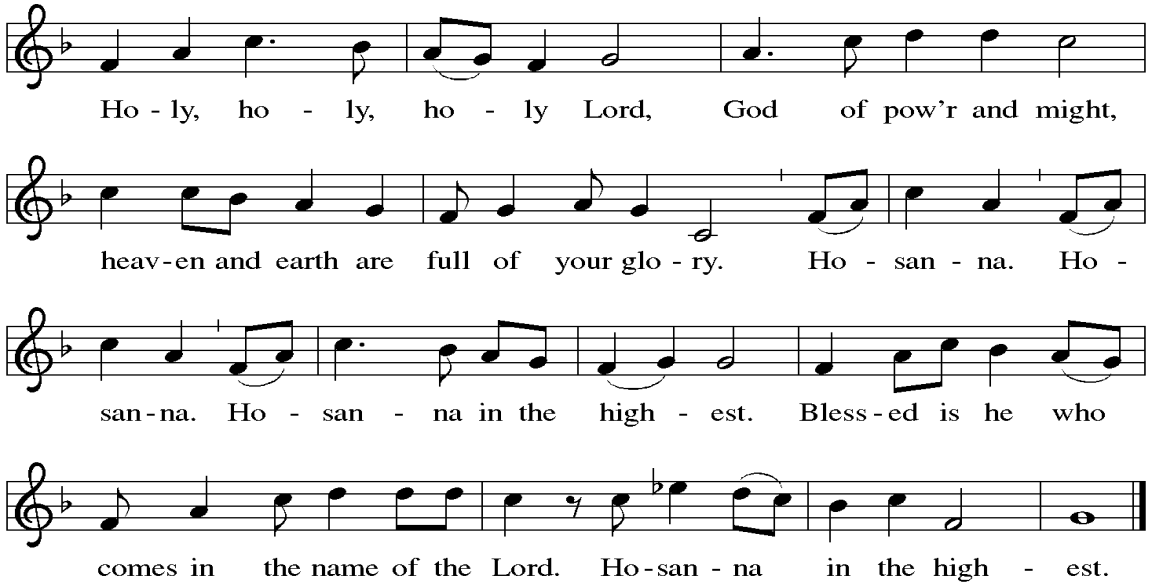
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

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.

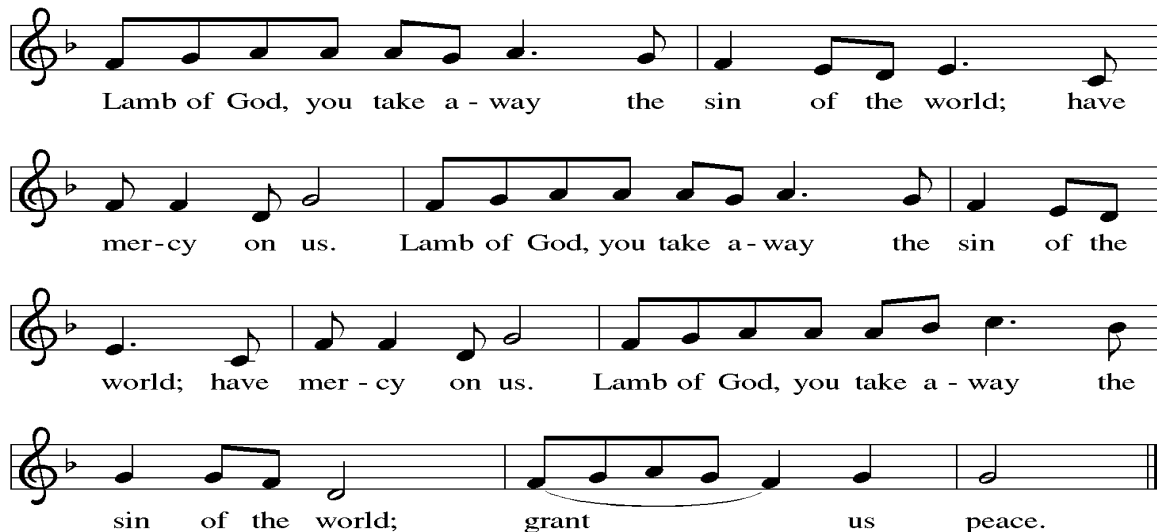
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

Congregation shall sit.

COMMUNION SONG “*Lamb of God*”

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Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY “*What Wondrous Love is This?*”

(A. C. Whitworth)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Congregation: Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: 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.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you † that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: **Amen.**

606 SENDING SONG *“Our Father, We Have Wandered”*

DISMISSAL

A: Called by the spirit,

C: **We serve Christ, sharing God’s love with all.**

A: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

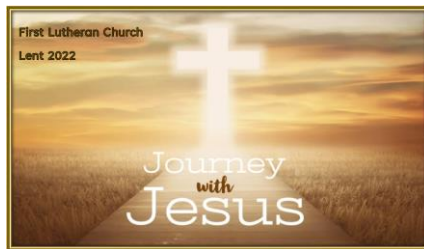
C: **Thanks be to God.**

PLEASE LEAVE IN SILENCE.

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LAY MINISTERS	7:00 p.m.
Assisting Minister / Lector	John Hanna / Bryan Harold
Communion Assistants	Maggie Babinka-Repic, Nancy Besta
Ushers/Greeter	John & Linda Harold / Barb Collins
Council Member	Bob Wollin
Tech Team	Austin Jackson

LENT 2022 - JOURNEY WITH JESUS
MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE ON THURSDAYS
BEGINNING MARCH 10th AT 7:00 PM



This year, in our mid-week services, we will be exploring the lives of some of those who were close to Jesus during his last week of life. These services will take place **Thursdays beginning March 10th at 7:00 p.m. both in person and online.** We will step into the lives of people like Mary Magdalene, Peter, even Judas. Who are these people and how did they impact the story of Christ?

Freedom Dust

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (*ELW*, p. 254). Today is a day for remembering: We remember our mortality. We remember that we are simply creatures, not the Creator. We remember those we love who have been returned to the dust. We remember our place in the large arc of history. We remember that we are frail and small and that the world does not revolve around us. It’s a solemn day to remember. But that remembering also leads us to freedom.

When we remember that we are not God, we are freed to stop pretending we are. When we remember that we do not have complete control of our lives, we are freed to hold things loosely. When we remember the insignificance of our wealth, our possessions, and our status, we are freed to practice radical generosity. When we, along with the rest of humanity, remember the weight of our mistakes and our shortcomings, we are freed from the need to prove how good and worthy we are. When we remember that all of us are dust together, we are freed from the incessant cycle of ladder climbing and reputation protecting. When we remember that our own lives are short, we are freed to see the miracle of God’s life-giving power.

Freedom comes to God’s people in the most unlikely of places: in the desert, in the wilderness, in exile, under an oppressive empire, on the cross, in the homes of scared disciples locked away. Freedom arrives in the ordinary things of water, word, bread, and wine. And today, freedom comes to us in ashes, amid fragile and imperfect people.

So, remember that you are dust. But be freed, trusting that as in the very beginning, from just a speck of dust God can create new and abundant life.

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