

February 17, 2021
Ash Wednesday



AGAIN & AGAIN - We Are Invited In

In Lent, we are reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

Ringing of Bell

PRELUDE: *Ash Wednesday Prayer - Create in Me a Clean Heart - Ps. 51:10-12*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are invited –

**ALL: into the story, into this place,
into this time of worship.**

L: We are invited –

**ALL: into this reflection, into community,
into this Lenten spiritual journey**

L: We are invited –

**ALL: the broken and bruised,
the hopeful, the new,
the faithful, the doubting,
the wondering, the waiting.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Ash Wednesday is a special day
because it marks the start of something new.
We are standing at the door of a journey
into deeper faith, and God is inviting us in.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Holy God – We know that you are near,
for you are always here,
gathered among us, just a breath away.
And despite knowing your nearness,
we still stumble over ourselves, unsure of how to pray.

ALL: Bring our hearts into this time and space.

P: So often we talk to you like a stranger,
praying prayers of small talk
about the weather and surface level concerns.
Keep genuine fear and doubt
tucked into the corners, out of sight, out of mind.

ALL: Bring our hearts into this time and space.

P: And so often we try to think our way to you,
as if we could use logic or our minds alone
to explain your great unknown.
We forget what we knew as children;
we forget how to feel our way to you.

ALL: Bring our hearts into this time and space.

P: And too regularly, we limit our experience of you
missing your constant invitation
into the holiness all around us.
Forgive us. Guide us.

ALL: Bring our hearts into this time and space.

Reflection time and silence

P: Friends, whether you are standing
at the door of a deeper faith journey,
or unsure of what comes next,
or running your way through that threshold,
YOU are claimed, forgiven, and loved by God.

**ALL: Again and again, we are forgiven.
Again and again, we are loved.
Again and again, we are invited in.**

P: Thanks be to God for a love like this.

ALL: Amen.

READING: ISAIAH 58:1-12

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 6:1-21

¹"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.

⁷"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹"Pray then in this way:

All Read Together... (with music background)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

**¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you;**

**¹⁵but if you do not forgive others,
neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

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. ¹⁹Do 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."

MESSAGE

MUSIC: *Our Father* PARAPHRASE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER Tanya Short
Our Father in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Father in heaven, give us our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, and keep us from all evil. Father in heaven, yours is the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory forevermore. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

We believe in an inviting God who invites the poor and the sick, the outcast and the lonely, the immigrant and the refugee, the awkward and the abrasive, the young and the innocent. We believe God invites the best and the worst – In all of us.

We believe God invites us to: A life of faith, a crowded table, a messy church, a deeper truth, a resilient joy, a place to belong, a family among strangers, a world that is just, and a love that knows no bounds.

We believe this invitation exists for all people. We believe this invitation exists for us. And when we miss the call or ignore the invite, we believe that God invites us again. Thanks be to God for that invitational Spirit. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE—OFFERING OF GIFTS—PRAYERS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DRIVE BY IMPOSITION OF ASHES & HOLY COMMUNION

Church Parking Lot: **11 AM - NOON** AND **5 - 6 PM**

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

L: As you leave this space,
may your mouth speak of God's goodness.
may your arms hold those in need.
may your feet walk toward justice.
may you heart trust its worth.
may your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm-

**ALL: again and again and again,
until God's promised day.**

L: In the name of the God, the Beloved,
and the Holy Spirit, go with courage,
go with heart, go in peace.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PARTICIPANTS

PASTORS: Julie Rogness ASSISTANT: Carmen Nesseth KEYBOARDIST: Annette Thunhorst SOLOIST: Tanya Short
TECH CREW: Jim Braaten, Steve Johnson, Bill Lewis, Dan Rogness, Holly Aldorfer, Heidi Haugen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TEXTS: USED WITH PERMISSION: *Again and Again* – A SANCTIFIED ART by Sarah Are © 2020 | sanctifiedart.org.
PIANO SOLO: *Ash Wednesday Prayer / Create in Me a Clean Heart*, Ps. 51:10-12, Music by Annette Thunhorst.
VOCAL SOLO: *Our Father*, Music by Annette Thunhorst.

CONNECTIONS

WEBSITE: fickenyon.org FACEBOOK: [First Evangelical Lutheran Kenyon MN](https://www.facebook.com/FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurchKenyon)
OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurchKenyon>
Pastor E-Mail: firstpastorkenyon@gmail.com Pastor Phone: 952-994-1201
Church E-Mail: firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 789-5261

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sid Strandemo, Faye Marcuson, Ron Grose, Barb Schaller, Lila Cole, Ione Overby, Lynn Fromm (sister of Ed Fletcher), Eloyce Berg, the Family of Teresa Pittman (daughter of Betty Redfield).

CALENDAR

Wed/Feb 17	----	Pre-Recorded Worship Available All Day
Wed/Feb 17	11 – Noon	Drive-By Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion
Wed/Feb 17	5 – 6 pm	Drive-By Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion
Wed/Feb 17	7:30 pm	Church Council via Zoom
Thu/Feb 18	7 pm	AA
Sun/ Feb 21	9 am	Live-Streamed Worship
Sun/ Feb 21	7 pm	AA

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 Forest St., Kenyon, MN 55946

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Worship Bulletin

