



**ALTERED**  
in witness

February 14, 2024

**Ash Wednesday**  
**“Altered in Witness”**  
**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**  
*(\* indicates the assembly stands)*

**Gathering**

- \*Kyrie p. 98  
\*Greeting **A: And also with you.**  
\*Prayer of the Day

**Word**

- First Reading Joel 2:2-17  
Psalm 51:1-17 (see page 4) *(said responsively by full verse)*  
Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10  
\*Gospel Acclamation  
\*Gospel Reading Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
\*Hymn of the Day 320 *“The Glory of These Forty Days”*  
Invitation to Lent  
Confession of Sin p. 252  
Litany for the Imposition of Ashes **A: tune our hearts to your song.**  
Imposition of Ashes p. 254  
Music for Reflection *“Ich folge dir gleichfalls”* J.S. Bach  
\*Prayers of Intercession **A: receive our prayer.**

\*Peace

**Meal**

- \*Offering Hymn 188 *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*  
\*Great Thanksgiving p. 107

*Holy, Holy, Holy	p. 108
*Thanksgiving at the Table IV	p. 111
*Lord's Prayer ( <i>Our Father in heaven...</i> )	p. 112
Lamb of God	p. 112
Communion Hymn 804	<i>"Come Down, O Love Divine"</i>
*Concluding Prayer	
<b>Sending</b>	
*Blessing	
*Hymn 326	<i>"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"</i>
*Dismissal	<b>A: Thanks be to God.</b>

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**What does it look like to be transformed in "secret," as the Gospel says, but still maintain a public witness?**

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### **Leading Worship Tonight**

**Minister and Violinist:** Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

**Diaconal Minister of Music:** Deacon Scott Knarr

**Lector:** John Heil

**Choral Scholar:** Nicole Hamilton

**Broadcast:** Gary Pootz

**Building Monitor:** Don Robins (519-502-2099)

**<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.**

**<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

**<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.**

**<sup>4</sup>Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**

**<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.**

**<sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

**<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.**

**<sup>8</sup>Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

**<sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.**

**<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

**<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.**

**<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

**<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.**

**<sup>14</sup>Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**

**<sup>15</sup>O Lord, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.**

**<sup>16</sup>For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.  
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**

**<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.**

**Church Fire Plan** For everyone's awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety.

## Worship Notes

In our prayers Clare, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Marie, Grace, Maureen and John.

All are welcomed to the Lord's table where Jesus promises to meet us. Communion will be at the high altar rail this evening. Please remain kneeling or standing at the rail until all have received the wine or grape juice; there will be a table blessing for each group. Gluten-free communion wafers are also available. Please indicate this to the Pastor.

Today's music for meditation is an aria from the St. John Passion by J.S. Bach. Here is an English translation of the text: I follow you likewise with joyful steps and do not leave you. My life, my light, bring me on my way and do not cease to pull, push and urge me on.



**St. Peter's Breakfast Group** is inviting St. Matthews to their monthly Breakfast group held at Kypreos restaurant on Lancaster St. The guest speakers provide interesting topics on various items. It's a great opportunity to connect with our brothers and sisters within our Grand River Ministry. If you are interested please use the link provided below to sign up. Kim Schaner - President - St. Matthews Board of Directors.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-peters-breakfast-club-tickets-802073713067?aff=oddtcreator>

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024:** Everyone is invited to participate in this group on Tuesday, February 20 at 9:00 a.m. at Kypreos Restaurant, 305 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener. Attendees will order from the menu and pay for their own meals. Our speaker will be Dr. Paul Georgopoulos of the Country Hills Chiropractic Centre in Kitchener. He will be accompanied by a massage therapist. Their presentation will focus on stress relief.

### Important Information for tonight's worship

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented at the High Altar during the service.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.
- **Please join us for Fellowship Time** after worship in the Lower Level Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.
- **Lower Level Sanctuary Washrooms** can be accessed via any of the staircases. There is one wheelchair accessible washroom, and the rest are all-gender washrooms. A further all-gender washroom is also available via the west stair tower door (front left of the Sanctuary) on the same level. Turn right at the hallway.



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# St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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