

OPENING HYMN: *“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”* # 419**ORDER OF SERVICE: VESPERS** Page 229**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Pastor: Almighty God, You created us out of the dust of the ground. May these ashes remind us that we are dust and shall return to dust. May they also remind us of the cross of Christ by which we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. People: Amen.

(Those who wish to receive ashes, on their forehead or wrist, may come forward one at a time.)

[The minister imposes ashes on the forehead with the sign of the cross — a reminder of the cross placed on the forehead at the time of Baptism — with the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The congregation remains silent.]

OFFICE HYMN: *“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”* # 435**FIRST READING:** *Joel 2:12-19*

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. 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; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” ¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,

“Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

SECOND READING: *Luke 23:32-38*

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

RESPONSORY FOR LENT: Page 231**SERMON: “Father, Forgive Them”** Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin**HYMN:** # 447 (vs. 1-3)**OFFERING****MUSIC:** *“Lord, Have Mercy”* sung by our Senior Choir**PRAYER:** Page 233**KYRIE:** Page 233**LORD’S PRAYER:** Page 233**COLLECT:** Page 233**ADDITIONAL COLLECTS:** Page 233**COLLECT FOR PEACE:** Page 233**BENEDICAMUS:** Page 234**BENEDICTION:** Page 234**CLOSING HYMN:** *“Abide with Me”* # 878 (vs. 1 & 6)**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin**Organist:** Cindy Wood**Acolyte:** Wyatt Schroeder**Elder on Duty:** Kraig Deling**Radio Monitor:** Ron Wood