



## **A Heart of Flesh**

Prayer for Renewal and Mercy

*Based on Ezekiel 36 and Psalm 51*

## GATHERING

*Following a time of silence, the hymn below is sung softly three times.*

### Listen

25



*The leader may call out other words to replace "Listen, listen."*

Text and music: Bret Hesla  
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The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God,  
holy and immortal,  
for you remember how we are made—  
as frail as dust,  
as fleeting as breath.

By your tender compassion,  
your word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
that the world might know your love.

Be present with us now, we pray.  
Turn our hearts toward you  
and in love toward one another,  
for you are gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and rich in love,  
through Jesus Christ,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Silence.*

WORD

*The hymn below is sung and then used as a refrain following the readings.*

### Give Us, Lord, a New Heart

13



Text and music: Bernadette Farrell, based on Ezekiel 36:26  
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Five hundred years before Christ,  
Ezekiel spoke to the people of Israel about the promises of God.

A reading from Ezekiel.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, says our God,  
and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness,  
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

A new heart I will give you,  
and a new spirit I will put within you;  
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone  
and give you a heart of flesh.

I will put my spirit within you.

*Ezekiel 36:25-27a*



Give us, Lord, a new heart; re-cre - ate your spir-it with - in us.

A reading from C.S. Lewis.

To love at all is to be vulnerable.

Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken.

If you want to make sure of keeping it intact,

you must give your heart to no one, not even an animal.

Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries;

avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket of your selfishness.

But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change.

It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable.

*The Four Loves*



Give us, Lord, a new heart; re-cre - ate your spir-it with - in us.

A reading from Psalm 51.

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

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

Restore to the me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

*Psalms 51:10-12*



Give us, Lord, a new heart; re-cre - ate your spir-it with - in us.

Let us pray.

God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves, and still you love us. Wash us from all our sins, create in us clean hearts, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim your praises; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

#### INVITATION TO THE CROSS

Jesus, in his suffering and death,  
reveals the very heart of God,  
a heart of pure unspeakable love,  
a heart that risks everything for the sake of love,  
a heart open to the suffering of others  
and broken by the cruelty of others,  
a heart alive with love that death could not hold.

Come, to the cross, to the heart of God.  
Bring your own heart as it is—  
broken or empty, fearful or unfaithful,  
for God welcomes it and breathes into it the Spirit of Christ's love.

#### PRAYER AT THE CROSS

*Hymns below are sung softly while people come forward to pray. Sing each hymn four times.*

#### O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.  
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

The musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major. The treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a series of chords and intervals. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and a steady bass line.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.  
*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*

The musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major. The treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a series of chords and intervals. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and a steady bass line.

## Come and Fill Our Hearts

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Come and Fill Our Hearts'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community  
Music: CONFITEMINI DOMINO, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
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*When the prayers around the cross have come to a close and the music has ended, silence is kept.*

Let us pray.

Compassionate God,  
in Christ's gentle and suffering love  
you have shown us the way of abundant life.  
Keep us joined to Christ's life-giving passion,  
that our hearts may know the joy and freedom for which you have created us,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

SENDING

As tender as a parent to child,  
so gentle is God to us.  
As high as heaven is above earth,  
so vast is God's love for us.  
As far as east is from west,  
so far God removes our sin,  
renewing our lives in Christ.

Go in peace. Or remain to pray.

*The room stays quiet and dark until all have finished praying.*

*Thank you for worshipping with us this evening!  
We hope to see you again next week,*

# Wednesday Lent Ministry Opportunities

## March 1

Dinner @ 6:15 PM  
Prayer Around the Cross  
Worship @ 7:00 PM  
*A Heart of Flesh*  
*Prayer for renewal & mercy*

## March 8

Dinner @ 6:15 PM  
Prayer Around the Cross  
Worship @ 7:00 PM  
*Prayer for the healing of the  
nations*

## March 22

Dinner @ 6:15 PM  
Prayer Around the Cross  
Worship @ 7:00 PM  
*Prayer for the healing of  
creation*

## March 29

Dinner @ 6:15 PM  
Prayer Around the Cross  
Worship @ 7:00 PM  
*Beside Still Waters*  
*A prayer of healing*

*We invite everyone to join us!*  
Bethany Lutheran Church, 235 S 2nd St.

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