

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

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Ash Wednesday
Sunday, February 17, 2021
Worship 7:00 pm



PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Preparation

EXHORTATION *

Brothers and Sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer and works of love - the disciplines of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in our Lenten discipline.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

CONFESSION *

Most holy and merciful Father:

We confess to you and to one another, to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf 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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

we confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

we confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

we confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

we confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

we confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.

EXPLANATION OF THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord

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

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN* "Savior, When in Dust to You"

ELW #601

Savior, when in dust to you low we bow in homage due;
when, repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
oh, by all your pains and woe suffered once for us below,
bending from your throne on high, hear our penitential cry!

By your helpless infant years, by your life of want and tears,
by your days of deep distress in the savage wilderness,
by the dread, mysterious hour of the insulting tempter's pow'r,
turn, oh, turn a fav'ring eye; hear our penitential cry!

By your hour of dire despair, by your agony of prayer,
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dreadful sacrifice,
listen to our humble sigh; hear our penitential cry!

By your deep expiring groan, by the sad sepulchral stone,
by the vault whose dark abode held in vain the rising God,
oh, from earth to heav'n restored, mighty, reascended Lord,
bending from your throne on high, hear our penitential cry!

PRAYER OF THE DAY *

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 receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Word

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

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?'"

The Word of the Lord. *Response: Thanks be to God.*

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17 (read responsively)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
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 offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**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.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**
¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

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

^{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.

The Word of the Lord. *Response: Thanks be to God.*

LENTEN VERSE *

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

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

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew. *Response: Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said to the disciples: 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.

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.”

The gospel of our Lord. ***Response: Praise to you, O Christ.***

SERMON

HYMN* *“Jesus, Still lead On”*

ELW #624

Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, although the way be cheerless, we will follow, calm and fearless; guide us by your hand to the promised land.

If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faithless fears o'ertake us, let not faith and hope forsake us; safely past the foe to our home we go.

When we seek relief from a long-felt grief, when temptations come alluring make us patient and enduring; show us that bright shore where weep no more.

Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heavenly leader, still direct us, still support, console, protect us, till we safely stand in the promised land.

NICENE CREED*

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 * *Response: Hear our prayer.*

LORD'S PRAYER *

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.

Sending

BLESSING * *Response: Amen, Amen, Amen.*

HYMN * *“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”*

ELW #599

Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin;
from selfish passions set me free and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed;
let me your loving servant be and taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity point out your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see and share your joy at last.

DISMISSAL * *Response: Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

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*We again welcome Caleb Flick to our organ console
this evening and thank him for providing our music.*

We also thank John Zimmerman for being our reader, Alice Lubrecht for being our vocalist, and Marlee Zimmerman for acolyting this evening.

Lenten Weekly Service

During Lent we will be holding mid-week joint Lenten services with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We will meet each Wednesday evening at Good Shepherd located at 3700 Rutherford St., Harrisburg. The evening prayer service, starting at 7 pm will be held in their Nave. Our first service will be February 24th and we will meet again on March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. Everyone is invited to join us. These services will also be streamed live on their Facebook page.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, a caring congregation dedicated to the word of Christ welcomes all people to worship and grow with us as we share His love and salvation with our neighbors, our children and ourselves.