



St John's

Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
520 W Chestnut St, Lake City, MN 55041
651-345-3523 (church) 651-345-4092 (school)
www.StJohnsLakeCity.com
office@StJohnsLakeCity.com

Ash Wednesday

17 February 2021 3:30 and 7:00 P.M.

Prayer before worship

Lord Jesus, today Your Church on earth begins 40 days of remembering Your suffering and death for everyone. During these days teach me how ugly sin is by showing me the consequences You endured for my sin. But let me also associate Lent with true joy since Your suffering and death completely freed me from the eternal consequences of my sin. Please take away my desire for every evil. I want to do what is right in Your sight, O Lord. Hear me and strengthen me, for You are gracious and almighty. Amen.

About Lent and this Ash Wednesday service:

The 40-day season of Lent directs us to two major goals.

1) Prepare for celebrating Easter. This is accomplished primarily by hearing about and meditating on Jesus' suffering and death.

2) Focus on growing as people who have been baptized into Christ. Christians who seek to grow spiritually—to live up to the calling they received in Baptism—engage in the disciplines of Lent: repentance, prayer, self-denial, planned and spontaneous acts of love, etc. Work at these activities, at home, at church, and in the world.

Since each Sunday is a “little Easter,” the Sundays in Lent are not, strictly speaking, part of the Lenten season. They remain “islands of refreshment” during the season. The Scripture Lessons for the Sundays in Lent reflect the origins of Lent: in the early

church adult converts were being prepared for Baptism during this season. Notice how the Sunday Gospel lessons emphasize “renewal for those baptized into Christ.”

The five midweek Lenten services which follow Ash Wednesday highlight the Passion History, the story of Jesus’ sufferings and death. Christians grow in their appreciation of the Good News through this extended meditation on the Passion History.

Today’s Ash Wednesday service should feel austere and have a repentant flavor. May God bless you richly through your use of His Word and Sacrament this Lent.

Repent for God is Merciful

Opening Hymn

#98 (stanzas 4 and 6)

4. If my sins give me alarm and my conscience grieve me,
let Your cross my fear disarm; peace of conscience give me.

Help me see forgiveness won by Your holy passion.

If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion.

6. Graciously my faith renew; help me bear my crosses,
learning humbleness from You, peace mid pain and losses.

May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
that I may in heav’n above sing Your praise forever.

Worship Dialog

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Mat 28:19)

C: Amen. By Baptism, at which these words were spoken over us, God has made us worthy to stand in His presence as His dear children.

P: Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)

C: He is Jesus, the incarnate God, sent from the Father and anointed by the Spirit.

P: It is good to praise the LORD and make music to Your name, O Most High,

C: to proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night. (Psalm 92:1-2)

P: Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,

C: Your faithfulness to the skies. (Psalm 36:5)

P: Blessed are they whose help is in the LORD their God,

C: the LORD, who remains faithful forever. (see Psalm 146:5-6)

P: For the Word of the LORD is right and true;

C: He is faithful in all He does. (Psalm 33:4)

P: Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him. If we disown Him, He will also disown us;

C: if we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself. (2 Timothy 2:11-13)

P: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins

C: and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

P: Lift up your hearts to our faithful God in song!

♪♪ **C** (sings): (tune CW304)

1. “Jesus sinners does receive”: oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin’s delusions live and from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.
6. Oh, how blest it is to know, were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow by Your blood and bitter passion,
For these words I do believe: “Jesus sinners does receive.”

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty and merciful God, You never get tired of Your people, who sin through weakness, and You always forgive those who turn to You in repentance. Create in us clean and contrite hearts which are always willing to repent fully of our sins, always willing to receive Your full and gracious pardon with joy;

C: through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 59:12-20

¹²Our offenses are many in Your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: ¹³rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, fomenting oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. ¹⁴So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. ¹⁵Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. ¹⁶He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so His own arm worked salvation for Him, and His own righteousness sustained Him. ¹⁷He put on righteousness as His breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped Himself in zeal as in a cloak. ¹⁸According to what they have done, so will He repay wrath to His enemies and retribution to His foes; He will repay the islands their due. ¹⁹From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere His glory. For He will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along. ²⁰“The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the LORD.

Verse of the Day

Joel 2:13

P: Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:2

²⁰We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1}As God’s

fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ²For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Hymn of the Day

#100 (st 1-3)

1. A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
our guilt and evil bearing and, laden with the sins of earth,
none else the burden sharing. Goes patient on,
grows weak and faint, to slaughter led without complaint,
that spotless life to offer, bears shame and stripes
and wounds and death, anguish and mockery and says,
"Willing all this I suffer."

2. This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend,
the Lamb of God, our Savior;
Him God the Father chose to send to gain for us His favor.
"Go forth, my Son," the Father said,
"and free my children from their dread
of guilt and condemnation.
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
but by Your passion they will share
the fruit of Your salvation."

3. "Yes, Father, yes, most willingly
I'll bear what You command me.
My will conforms to Your decree;
I'll do what You have asked me."
O wondrous Love, what have You done!
The Father offers up His Son, desiring our salvation.
O Love, how strong You are to save!
You make His bed within the grave
who built the earth's foundation.

Sermon

Luke 18:9-14

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:
¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men— robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’
¹³But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Go Home Justified before God

Hymn Response to God’s Word

#100 (st 4)

4. From morn till eve, In all I do,
I’ll praise You, Christ, my treasure.
To sacrifice myself for You shall be my aim and pleasure.
My stream of life shall ever be a current
flowing ceaselessly, Your constant praise outpouring.
I’ll treasure in my memory, O Lord, all You have done for me,
Your gracious love adoring.

Burning of the Palms

In some of our churches the palms from Palm Sunday last year are burned at this point in the service. Burning turns the palms into ashes. The ashes remind us of our mortality and the future earthly state of our mortal bodies (until the resurrection!). Each of us can say, “My sins have earned death for me. Death will turn my body to dirt and ashes.” “Dust you are and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3). The

unpleasant smell of the burning palms reminds us that sin is a stench in God's nostrils—confer Isaiah 65:2-5: “All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations—a people who continually provoke me... Such people are smoke in my nostrils.”

Psalm 130

P: Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD; O LORD, hear my voice.

C: Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

P: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins,

C: O LORD, who could stand?

P: But with You there is forgiveness;

C: therefore You are feared.

P: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

C: and in His word I put my hope.

P: My soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen wait for the morning,

C: more than watchmen wait for the morning.

P: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,

C: for with the LORD is unfailing love

P: and with Him is full redemption.

C: He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Instruction at the Beginning of Lent

P: Brothers and sisters, our God created people to have joy through fellowship with Him, to love everyone, and to live in harmony with His creation. But sin separates us from God, ruins our relationships with each other, and spoils God's good creation. This is why we do not have the kind of life God intended for us. In addition, we grieve our heavenly Father by our sin. Being both loving and just, He would rather we turn to Him and live than fall under His judgment. As justified followers of our dear Lord Jesus Christ, we have been called to struggle against everything that tempts us not to love God and our neighbor. The season of Lent, with its discipline of repentance, self-denial, prayer, and works of love, sets before us the goals of our spiritual warfare. I therefore invite you to renew your

commitment to this spiritual battle, asking our dear heavenly Father to strengthen us so that we persevere in our Lenten discipline.

The Great Litany

The Great Litany is purposely long, leading us to practice several of the disciplines of Lent—prayer, repentance, self-denial. You have the option of kneeling during the Great Litany.

Prayer of Approach to God

P: O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: O Son of God, Redeemer of the world,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: O Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons yet one God,

C: Have mercy on us.

Prayers for Deliverance

P: Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses nor the offenses of the generations who came before us. Spare Your people whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood.

C: Spare us, good Lord.

P: From all spiritual blindness; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of love:

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

P: From all desire to sin; and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil:

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

P: From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart and contempt for Your Word and Your will:

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

P: From earthquake and tempest; from drought, fire, and flood; from civil strife and violence; from war and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared:

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

Prayer Recalling Christ's Saving Work

P: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by Your proclamation of the kingdom:

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

P: By Your bloody sweat and bitter grief; by Your cross and suffering; and by Your precious death and burial:

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

P: By Your mighty resurrection; by Your glorious ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit:

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

P: In our times of trouble; in our times of prosperity; in the hour of death; and on the day of judgment:

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

P: Receive our prayers, O Lord our God.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Prayers for the Church

P: Govern and direct Your holy Church, fill it with love and truth, and grant it that unity which is according to Your will. Enlighten all ministers with true knowledge and understanding of Your Word, that by their preaching and living they may declare it clearly and demonstrate its truth.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: Encourage and prosper Your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out laborers into the harvest. Bless and keep Your people, that all may find and follow their true vocation and carry out their personal ministry as part of the priesthood of all believers.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: Give us hearts which love and revere You, that we may diligently live according to Your commandments. To all Your people, give grace to receive Your Word and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. Strengthen those who stand firm in the faith, encourage the fainthearted, raise up those who fall, and finally give us the victory.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Prayers for Our Country and All People

P: Rule the hearts of Your servants, the president of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth. Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection such as firefighters and police, and shield them in all dangers and adversities. Grant wisdom and insight to those who govern us, and to judges and magistrates the grace to execute justice with mercy.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: To all nations grant unity, peace, and concord, and to all people give clothing, food, and shelter. Grant us abundant harvests, strength and skill to conserve the resources of the earth, and wisdom to use them well.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: Enlighten with Your Spirit all who teach and all who learn. Come to the help of all who are in danger, necessity, and trouble; protect all who travel by land, air, or water; and show Your pity on all prisoners and captives.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: Strengthen and preserve all women who are in childbirth and all young children, and comfort the aged, the bereaved, and the lonely. Defend and provide for the widowed and the orphaned, the refugees and the homeless, the unemployed, and all who are desolate or oppressed.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

P: Heal those who are sick in body or mind, and give skill and compassion to all who care for them. Grant us true repentance, forgive our sins, and strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit to amend [change] our lives according to Your Holy Word.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Concluding Prayers

P: Son of God, we ask You to hear us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, so

C: have mercy on us.

P: O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,

C: Grant us Your peace.

P: Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Christ, have mercy on us.

P: Lord, have mercy on us.

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

CHRISTIAN QUESTIONS

especially for those preparing to receive the Lord's Supper

1. *Do you believe that you are a sinner?*

Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.

2. *How do you know this?*

From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.

3. *Are you sorry for your sins?*

Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

4. *What have you deserved from God because of your sins?*

I deserve His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.

5. *Do you hope to be saved?*

Yes, such is my hope.

6. *In whom, then, do you trust?*

I trust in my dear Lord Jesus Christ.

7. *Who is Jesus Christ?*
Jesus Christ is the Son of God, true God and true man.
8. *How many Gods are there?*
There is only one God; but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
9. *What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?*
He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
10. *Did the Father also die for you?*
He did not; for the Father is God only, the Holy Spirit likewise. But the Son is true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
11. *How do you know this?*
I know this from the holy Gospel and from the words of the sacrament of Holy Communion.
12. *(Those words will be spoken in a few minutes when we consecrate the earthly elements for use in the Supper.)*
13. *Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?*
Yes, I believe it.
14. *What moves you to believe this?*
I am moved to believe this by the words of Christ, “Take, and eat. This is my body. Drink from it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood.”
15. *What does Christ want you to do when you eat His body and drink His blood in the Lord’s Supper?*
Christ wants me to remember and proclaim His death and the pouring out of His blood, as He taught me: “Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
16. *Why does Christ want you to remember and proclaim His death?*

He wants me to do this so that ⁽¹⁾ I learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for my sins except Christ; ⁽²⁾ I learn to look with terror upon my sins and regard them as great indeed; ⁽³⁾ I find joy and comfort in Christ alone and believe that I have salvation through faith in Him.

17. *What moved Him to die and make a complete payment for your sins?*
He was moved to do this by His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners.

18. *Why do you desire to receive Holy Communion?*
I desire to do this so that I learn to believe that Christ out of great love died for my sins, and that I also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

19. *What moves you to receive Holy Communion frequently?*
The command and the promise of Christ my Lord moves me. Also, the burden of sin which lies heavy upon me causes me to feel a hunger and thirst for Holy Communion.

Absolution

P: *God has heard your profession of faith. As you believe, so may it also be unto you. By the authority Christ gave His Church to forgive the sins of the penitent, I assure you that all your sins are forgiven because of Christ's redeeming work, in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.*

C: Amen. This is as valid and certain in heaven also as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Jesus' Words of Institution and Distribution

P: *Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread. ...*

P: *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C: Amen.

Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part
ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen
your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry
peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Blessing

P: May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.
May your whole spirit, soul and body, be kept blameless at the coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

C: The one who calls us is faithful, and He will do it. Amen.

Hymn

#588 (stanzas 1-3)

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me!

3. Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings,
tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea;
come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Acknowledgements

“*Song of Simeon*,” from CW: Evening Prayer, tune: Kurt Eggert, setting Kermit Moldenhauer, © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710356.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

“*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*” from CW#98. Words by Sigmund von Birken, tr. August Crull. In the public domain.

“*A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth*” from CW#100. Words by Paul Gerhardt. In the public domain.

“*Abide With Me*” from CW#588. Words by Henry E. Lyte. In the public domain.

Also serving us:

Organist: Bob Wolff