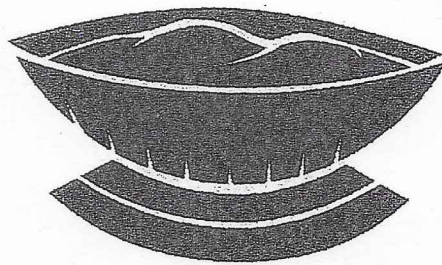


YOU ARE DUST AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN

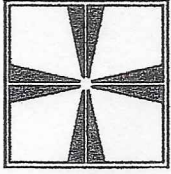


Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the Christian's 40-day journey with the Lord to the cross and tomb. It is a time to prepare for the proclamation of Easter. The 40 days are reminiscent of several Biblical events: Jesus' 40-day fast at the beginning of his public ministry, Moses' stay on Mt. Sinai at the giving of the Law, and Elijah's fast on his way to the mountain of God.

Personal repentance is the theme of our service tonight. For this reason the service has a somber tone, unique in the Church Year. But the gospel is not hidden. It is proclaimed in Word and song. It is given to us in the Lord's Supper. This time of repentance leads us to cling even tighter to the holy cross of our Lord Jesus.

February 22, 2023

ORDER OF SERVICE



Instruction for the Beginning of Lent

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all people, and to live in harmony with his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

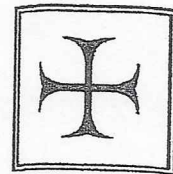
During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that in order to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

PLEASE STAND

Confession of Sins



M: Most holy and merciful Father,

C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault; by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

M: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: 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 the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people,

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

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

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us,

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

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

C: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

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

C: **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

M: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Silence for personal reflection

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

C: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

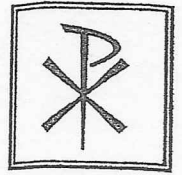
M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

C: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

C: ♪ Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his and he is mine!

Strengthen me, O gracious Lord,
By your Spirit and your word.
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die. (578 vs. 1, 5)

Absolution

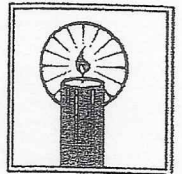


M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day



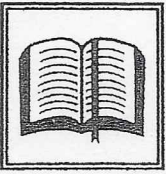
M: Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

for our
sake
he made
Him
to be sin
who knew
no sin

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21



First Lesson

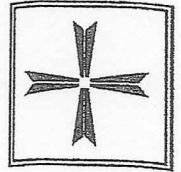
Isaiah 59:12-20

For our offenses are many in your sight,
and our sins testify against us.
Our offenses are ever with us,
and we acknowledge our iniquities:
rebellion and treachery against the LORD,
turning our backs on our God,
fomenting oppression and revolt,
uttering lies our hearts have conceived.
So justice is driven back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter.
Truth is nowhere to be found,
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.
The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice.
He 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.
He 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.
According 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.
From 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.
“The Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the LORD.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day



Psalm 51

M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

C: **according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

M: Wash away all my iniquity

C: **and cleanse me from my sin.**

M: For I know my transgressions,

C: **and my sin is always before me.**

M: Against you, you only, have I sinned

C: **and done what is evil in your sight,**

M: so that you are proved right when you speak

C: **and justified when you judge.**

M: Surely I was sinful at birth,

C: **sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

M: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;

C: **you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.**

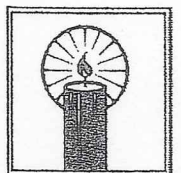
M: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

C: **wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

M: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

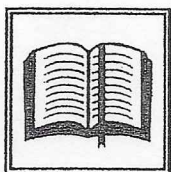
C: **Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.**

Prayer



M: Almighty and merciful Father, you freely forgive those who, as David of old, acknowledge and confess their sins. Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



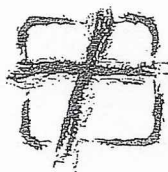
Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 7:8-13

Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. By all this we are encouraged.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



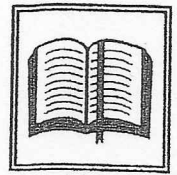
Verse of the Day

M: Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)

C: ♪ To the Lord your God return now;
Seek his merciful embrace.
He is always slow to anger;
He is filled with love and grace.
(tune is Hymn #400—Sweet the Moments)

PLEASE STAND

Gospel Lesson



Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

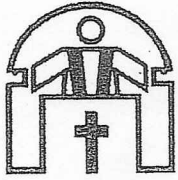
M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

BE SEATED

Hymn

650 vs. 1-2, 5 | *From Depths of Woe, Lord God, I Cry*



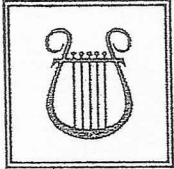
Sermon

Ezekiel 33:30-33

I Have Done as You Have Commanded...Even in the Face of Betrayal

“As for you, son of man, your countrymen are talking together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, saying to each other, ‘Come and hear the message that has come from the LORD.’ My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice.

“When all this comes true—and it surely will—then they will know that a prophet has been among them.”



Hymn

654 vs. 1-3 | *Jesus Sinners Does Receive*

Prayer of the Church

Spoken by the Minister.

PLEASE STAND

Lord's Supper

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Hear us as we pray in Jesus' name:

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.

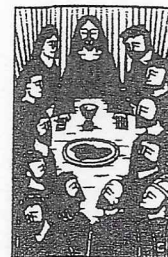
Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

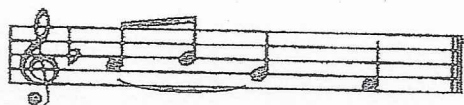
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever
and ever. Amen.



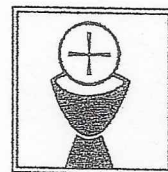
Words of Institution

Spoken by the Minister, followed by:

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.



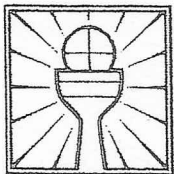


O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

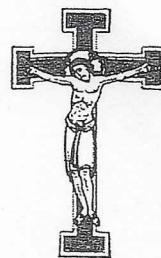


Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymn

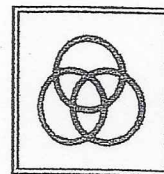
823 | *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

PLEASE STAND



Communion Blessing

Closing Prayer and Blessing



M: God, our Father, by the sacrifice of your Son you reconciled the world to yourself. We thank you for the precious gift of forgiveness. Refresh us with the joy of our salvation that we walk in the way of peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Renew our minds and wills that daily we may speak your word of peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

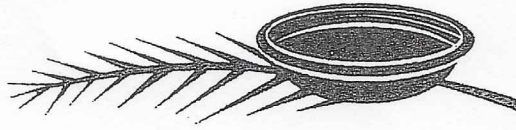
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

Closing Hymn

588 vs. 1-2 | *Come, O Come, Life-Giving Spirit*



Serving in Worship this Evening

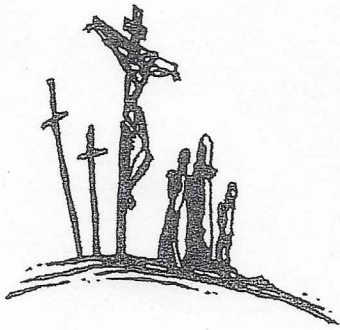
Preacher — Pastor Mark Aufdemberge

Organist — Jean Kaldunski (3:30)

Nancy Perez (6:30)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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"I have done as you commanded."

Ezekiel 9:11

Pictures of Jesus in Ezekiel

March 1

Ezekiel 43:6-7

A Temple to Live with His People

March 8

Ezekiel 20:49

Take this Message Seriously

March 15

Ezekiel 9:4

Foreheads Marked

March 22

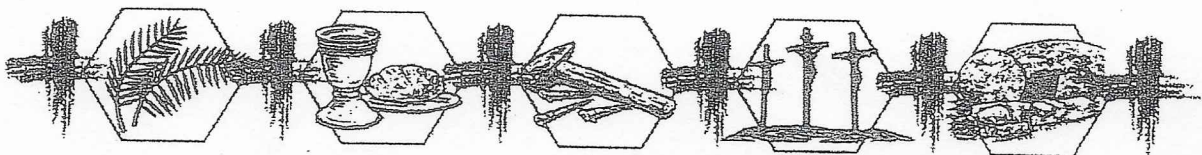
Ezekiel 16

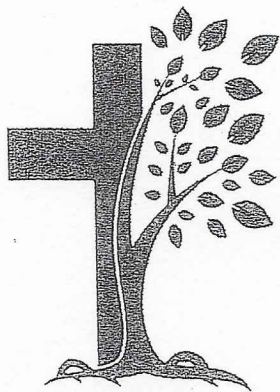
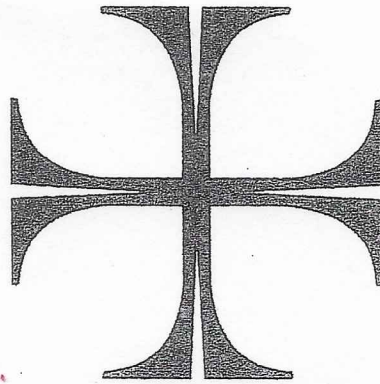
Salvation for the Utterly Helpless

March 29

Ezekiel 4

Defiled People





LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH