



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH- Red Bud, Illinois
February 17, 2021 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

LENT: Today begins the forty-day season of Lent. As we approach the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross during this time of the church year, we reflect upon and repent of our sins which caused Jesus to live and to die on our behalf. Our worship service today highlights the solemn nature of this time. We omit the usual joyful music before and after the service. Our hymns, responses and Scripture readings lead us to a repentance of our sins and to a firmer trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of those sins. The somber tone of our worship today (and of all our Lenten midweek services) will make our celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter all the more meaningful.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION: In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The individual cups of white wine in the center of the cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine for those who prefer this. For more information about this sacrament, please see pages 326-327 and 329-330 of *Lutheran Service Book*.

AN ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

(We are silent before worship to ask God's blessings upon us.)

PRELUDE: *(a.m.)* "Just As I Am" arranged by Benjamin Culli

(p.m.) "Just As I Am" Bell Choir with Brandon Nehrt, violin

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to reverent worship.

(please stand if you are able)

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P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit. C **Amen.**

P I will go to the altar of God, C **to God my exceeding joy.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord, C **who made heaven and earth.**

Please be seated

Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink.

Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves.

Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you." It is as if He said, "I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat."

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification.

Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us.

For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup.

For just as the one cup is filled with wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us. C **Amen.**

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Please Stand if able

C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. **C Amen.**

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's? **C Yes.**

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in (+) peace. **C Amen.**

HYMN VERSE: (*tune: "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"*)

**To the Lord, your God, re-turn, Hearts in true re-pent-ance rend-ing
Of His grace and mer-cy learn, Grac-ious gifts of God's own send-ing,
Words with pa-tient wel-come sound-ing And with stead-fast love a-bound-ing.**

(please be seated)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Joel 2:12-19

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and 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. Who 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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather 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. Between 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?'"

Then the LORD became jealous for His land and had pity on His people. The 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."

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

(7 p.m.) ANTHEM: "Rock of Ages" (by W.B. Olds)

Choir

THE EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

(please stand if you are able)

HYMN VERSE: *(tune: "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here")*

**Let us, then, take up the cross, Our own selves for Christ de-ny-ing
All things else re-gard as loss For the gifts of His sup-ply-ing
His re-buke, re-ment-tant, heed-ing, Fol-low Christ's de-ter-mined lead-ing.**

THE GOSPEL READING:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 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. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when 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.

And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.** *(please be seated)*

HYMN: 616 “Baptismal Waters Cover Me”

**Bap-tis-mal wa-ters cov-er me As I ap-proach on bend-ed knee;
My Fa-ther’s mer-cy here I plead, For griev-ous sins of thought and deed.**

**I look to Christ up-on the tree, His bod-y bro-ken there for me;
I lay be-fore Him all my sin, My darkest se-crets from with-in.**

**Lord, may Your wound-ed hand im-part Your heal-ing to my bro-ken heart;
Your love a-lone can form in me A heart that serves You joy-ful-ly.**

**From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep-herd speaks, but You are heard;
Through him Your hand now stretches out, For-giv-ing sin, de-stroy-ing doubt.**

**Bap-tis-mal wa-ters cov-er me ; Christ’s wound-ed hand has set me free.
Held in my Fa-ther’s strong em-brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.**

SERMON: “The Wounds of Blasphemy” John 10:31-39

The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone Me?” ³³ The Jews answered Him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone You but for blasphemy, because You, being a man, make Yourself God.” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? ³⁵ If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—³⁶ do you say of Him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? ³⁷ If I am not doing the works of My Father, then do not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do them, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me and I am in the Father.” ³⁹ Again they sought to arrest Him, but He escaped from their hands.

(please stand if you are able) PRAYERS:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that we would turn from our evil ways and live. O God of our salvation spare us from every evil to body and soul. Renew us in this penitential season to strive against the desires of the flesh, to grow in the joy of Your salvation, and to look in love and service toward our neighbors, especially those of the household of faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank You, Father, that You have sent Your only begotten Son into our flesh to offer Himself as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. Trusting in His mercy, bring us in

repentance and faith to Your altar to eat His body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION:

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts in praise to God. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. You bid Your people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying: **C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (*we pray in unison*)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

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

HYMN VERSE: (*tune: "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"*)

**Oh, cre-ate a heart with-in Cleansed by Your free Spir-it's giv-ing
From in-iq-ui-ty and sin, Fit for pure and righ-teous liv-ing.
May the joy of Your sal-va-tion Fill my voice with a-dor-a-tion.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: (*please be seated*)

570 "Just As I Am, without One Plea"

- 1. Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 2. Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 3. Just as I am, though tossed about With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

- 4 **Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 5 **Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 6 **Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

1. **Jesus sinners doth 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 doth receive.**
- 2 **We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.**
- 3 **Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.**
- 4 **I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**
- 5 **Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.**
- 6 **Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**
- 7 **Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

(please stand if you are able)

HYMN VERSE: *(tune: "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here")*

**Come, then, all by sin de-filed; In des-pair be not for-sak-en.
To your God be re-con-ciled; Christ in love your place has tak-en.
You who would re-ceive God's bless-ing, Faith-ful fol-low, Christ con-fess-ing.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

P: Let us pray: Gracious Lord, we thank You for having renewed us in this sacrament of Your Son’s body and blood given and shed for us upon the cross. Grant that through it the Holy Spirit will strengthen us in faith and in love towards You and in service to one another;

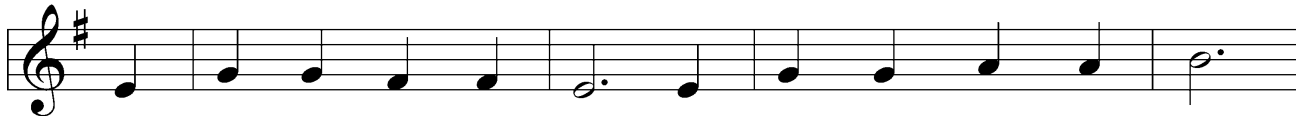
C: in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and to be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and (+) give you His peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 610 “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle’s strife;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

POSTLUDE:

(a.m.) “Lord Jesus, Think on Me” arr. by K. Hildebrand

(p.m.) “I Will Arise and Go to Jesus” Bell Choir

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Serving Us in Worship Today

Preacher and Liturgist: Pastor Mark Nebel

Organist and Choir Director: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak

Acolyte: (a.m.) Brody Stellhorn; (p.m.) Ayden Wiegard

NEXT WEDNESDAY our midweek Lenten services continue at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Our main theme this year is “By His Wounds We Are Healed.” Next week we will examine “The Wounds of Violating the Sabbath” There will be a supper for a free-will offering in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:45 p.m. A hymn sing will begin ten minutes before the evening service.

PSALM 51:

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out all my transgressions.

C: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

P: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

C: Against You, You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge.

P: Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

C: Surely You desire truth in the inner parts; You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

P: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

C: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice.

P: Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

C: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

P: Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

C: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.

P: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will turn back to You.

C: Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of Your righteousness.

P: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

C: You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

C: In Your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.

P: Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight You;

C: then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.