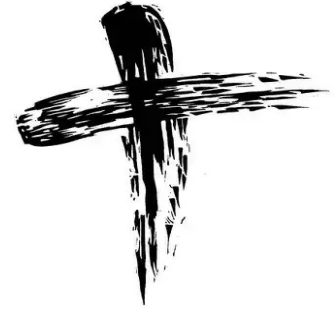




Wednesday Night Lenten Service
Ash Wednesday
February 17th, 2021
St. John's Lutheran Church



Order of Service – DS III, pg. 184

[Stand]

P: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope. Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Confession and Absolution, pg. 184

Kyrie and Litany:

P: O Lord,	C: Have mercy.
P: O Christ,	C: Have mercy.
P: O Lord,	C: Have mercy.
P: God the Father in heaven,	C: Have mercy.
P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	C: Have mercy.
P: God the Holy Spirit,	C: Have mercy.
P: Be gracious to us.	C: Spare us, good Lord.
P: Be gracious to us.	C: Help us, good Lord.

P: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: We poor sinners implore You

C: To hear us, O Lord.

P: To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C: **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C: **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: **We implore You to hear us.**

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: **Have mercy.**

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: **Have mercy.**

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: **Grant us Your peace.**

P: O Christ,

C: **Hear us.**

P: O Lord,

C: **Have mercy.**

P: O Christ,

C: **Have mercy.**

P: O Lord,

C: **Have mercy.**

P: O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Imposition of Ashes

[If you desire the imposition of ashes, please come forward to receive it at this time, otherwise you may be seated]

Old Testament Lesson, Joel 2:12 – 19

“Now, therefore,” says the Lord, “Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” ¹³So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. ¹⁴Who knows if He will 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, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; ¹⁶Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room. ¹⁷Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, “Spare Your people, O Lord, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” ¹⁸Then the Lord will be zealous for His land, And pity His people. ¹⁹ The Lord will answer and say to His people, “Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

Epistle Lesson, 2nd Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

[W]e implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. ^{6:1}We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. ⁴But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, ⁵in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; ⁶by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, ⁷by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, ⁸by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

[Stand]

Gospel Lesson, Matthew 6:1 – 6; 16 – 21

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

G: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Gospel Lesson, Matthew 6:1 – 6; 16 – 21

"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ³But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. ⁵And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. ... ¹⁶Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ¹⁷But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. ¹⁹Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord

G: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

[Sit]

Hymn of the Day: 745 "In God, My Faithful God"

Sermon: "Lent, Ashes, and Suffering"

Sermon Text: 2nd Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

Apostles' Creed pg. 192

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer *[Spoken by all]*

Salutation and Benedicamus pg. 201

Benediction

Holy Communion will follow the service for those who wish to remain and receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins.

Upcoming Lenten Schedule

February 24th – Baptism “How can water do such great things?”

March 3rd – Baptism “What does such Baptizing with water indicate?”

March 10th – Absolution “What is Confession?”

March 17th – Absolution “Which sins should we confess?”

March 24th – Absolution “What is the Office of the Keys?”

March 28th – Palm Sunday

April 1st – Maundy Thursday

April 2nd – Good Friday

April 3rd – Vigil of Easter

April 4th – Easter Morning