



Ash Wednesday 2021

Set Your Eyes

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

February 17, 2021

HOLY COMMUNION

As Christians who believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that every word written in it is God's holy word, we believe that we receive the body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. While this is something that goes beyond our human understanding, our faith allows us to accept this as true. God warns us in the Bible that anyone who doesn't understand this teaching or who denies this real presence of Christ's body and blood will do damage to his or her soul if not properly taught first (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

As a congregation we care about people and about the spiritual well-being of individuals, especially those attending the Lord's Table today. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are not under church discipline in another congregation, and are members of our congregation, one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], or a member of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS].

WORSHIP THEME

This Lent, we will use the metaphor of eyesight to examine how the various people in Mark's Gospel viewed Jesus during his Passion. In most cases, they misunderstood who he was and what he was doing; then again, sometimes by faith people did recognize him correctly.

We have these forty days of Lent in which we may look within ourselves as people of faith in our day. How are we like or unlike the people who saw Jesus in the flesh? Most important, as we gather for worship, we will see what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by his holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death.

Today, we consider the disciples. They failed to see that Jesus had to leave them so he could die and rise for them and for us. And they misjudged the selfless, loving act of the woman who anointed Jesus with expensive perfume. He saw it as a beautiful, selfless act of adoration that prepared him for his burial. We need to examine ourselves, lest we seek public approval or divine reward for our deeds. Only what our Lord has done for us makes us please to the Father.

ASH WEDNESDAY

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all 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 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

M: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

M: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

M: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

M: O Christ,

C: hear us.

M: God the Father in heaven,

C: have mercy.

M: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C: have mercy.

M: God the Holy Spirit,

C: have mercy.

M: Be gracious to us.

C: Spare us, good Lord.

M: Be gracious to us.

C: Help us, good Lord.

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

C: Help us, good Lord.

M: 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.

M: We poor sinners implore You

C: to hear us, O Lord.

M: 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.

M: 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.

M: 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.

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: we implore You to hear us.

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

C: have mercy.

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

C: have mercy.

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

C: grant us Your peace.

M: O Christ,

C: hear us.

M: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

M: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

M: O Lord,

C: have mercy. Amen.

M: 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

The practice of the imposition of ashes has been used in the church since the first century. The church father, Tertullian (c. a.d. 160–215), writes of the use of ashes as a public expression of repentance and of our human frailty that stands in need of Christ. The ashes remind us of our need for redeeming grace as they recall the words from the rite for Christian burial: "...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust..." words that will very likely be spoken over us all

HYMN

Savior, When in Dust to You | CW 124



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you Low we bow in
 2 By your help - less in - fant years, By your life of
 3 By your hour of dire de - spair, By your ag - o -
 4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



hom - age due, When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
 want and tears, By your days of deep dis - tress
 ny - of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; Oh, by all your
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, Oh, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
 te - rious hour Of th' in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, oh,
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from your throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn a fav - 'ring eye, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 to our hum - ble sigh, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 from your throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, abr., alt.
 Tune: SPANISH CHANT (77 77 D) Spanish melody, 17th century, adapt.

Please stand

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY – *Kyrie*



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

ABSOLUTION

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that lamenting our sins, we may receive from you forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Be seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Joel 2:12-19

Joel has shown us a locust plague that came upon Israel, followed by another catastrophe when another army of locust like attackers invades the land. So what is Israel to do? When judgment is coming, there is only one thing to do; and it doesn't involve guns, gold, or groceries. Repent.

¹²Even now—

this is the LORD's declaration—
turn to me with all your heart,
with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

¹³Tear your hearts,
not just your clothes,
and return to the LORD your God.
For he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger, abounding in faithful love,
and he relents from sending disaster.

¹⁴Who knows? He may turn and relent
and leave a blessing behind him,
so you can offer a grain offering and a drink offering
to the LORD your God.

¹⁵Blow the ram's horn in Zion!

Announce a sacred fast;
proclaim a solemn assembly.

¹⁶Gather the people;
sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;^[a]
gather the infants,
even babies nursing at the breast.
Let the groom leave his bedroom,
and the bride her honeymoon chamber.

¹⁷Let the priests, the LORD's ministers,
weep between the portico and the altar.
Let them say,
"Have pity on your people, LORD,
and do not make your inheritance a disgrace,
an object of scorn among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and spared his
people. ¹⁹The LORD answered his people:

Look, I am about to send you
grain, new wine, and fresh oil.
You will be satiated with them,
and I will no longer make you
a disgrace among the nations.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 51 / CW p.86

Refrain



Psalm tone



Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love.
Wash away all my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

Refrain

Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquity.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
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.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 1:2-11

Peter encourages us to make every effort to remain connected to Christ.

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³His^{3a} divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by^{3b} his own glory and goodness. ⁴By these he has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, ⁶knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, ⁷godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you will never stumble. ¹¹For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Psalm 103:10

He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve or repaid us according to our iniquities.

Stand

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Then why put Ashes, a symbol of our piety on our face? The intent of the imposition is not to showcase our piety but our mortality. It demonstrates the reality of our condition; we will die but it also shows how faithful our God is.



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

⁶“Be careful not to practice your righteousness^{6a} in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven. ²So whenever you give to the poor, don’t sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. Truly I tell you, they have

their reward. ³ But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[a]

⁵ "Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you....

¹⁶ "Whenever you fast, don't be gloomy like the hypocrites. For they disfigure their faces so that their fasting is obvious to people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting isn't obvious to others but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[a]

¹⁹ "Don't store up for yourselves treasures^[a] on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. ²¹ 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!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

From Depths of Woe I Cry to You | CW 305



1 From depths of woe I cry to you; Lord, hear me,
 2 Your love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out
 3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in
 4 My soul is wait - ing for the Lord As one who



I im - plore you. Bend down your gra - cious ear to me;
 my trans - gres - sion. The best and ho - liest deeds must fail
 my own mer - it; It rests up - on his faith - ful Word
 longs for morn - ing; No watch - er waits with great - er hope



My prayer let come be - fore you. If you kept
 To break sin's dread op - pres - sion. Be - fore you
 To them of con - trite spir - it. That he is
 Than I for his re - turn - ing. I hope as



rec - ord of my sin And held a - gainst me
 none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear your
 mer - ci - ful and just— This is my com - fort
 Is - rael in the Lord; He sends re - demp - tion



what I've been, How could I stand be - fore you?
 strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
 and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.
 through his Word. We praise him for his mer - cy.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 4.
 St. 4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.
 Tune: AUS TIEFER NOT (87 87 887) Martin Luther, 1483–1546, alt.

PASSION READING

Mark 14:1-9

It was two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a cunning way to arrest Jesus and kill him. ²“Not during the festival,” they said, “so that there won’t be a riot among the people.”

³While he was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper,ⁱⁱⁱ as he was reclining at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured it on his head. ⁴But some were expressing indignation to one another: “Why has this perfume been wasted? ⁵For this perfume might have been sold for more than three hundred denariiⁱⁱⁱ and given to the poor.” And they began to scold her.

⁶Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a noble thing for me. ⁷You always have the poor with you, and you can do what is good for them whenever you want, but you do not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body in advance for burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

SERMON

Mark 14:1-9

Misjudging Eyes

The musical score is written on three staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and uses a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be seated

OFFERING

The offerings of the members of Christ Lutheran are gathered at this time. Guests need not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Stand

- M Lord Jesus Christ, in contrition, we today enter the holy season of Lent to meditate on the sufferings and death that You endured to save us. Help us never to misjudge the value of Your sacrifice for us but always to hold it as our dearest treasure and fix our eyes upon You, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- M: May Your willingness to deny Yourself, take up the cross, and suffer for us inspire in us a hatred of sin and a zeal to follow Your example for the sake of our neighbor. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- M: Grant to all pastors and evangelists the courage to proclaim Your cross as saving wisdom from on high, even though the world considers the Gospel folly. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- M: Multiply grace and peace to us in the knowledge of Your Father and of You, our Lord. Constantly remind us that Your divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. By Your precious and very great promises, make us partakers of the divine nature through entrance into Your eternal kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- M: Grant us to escape from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. Give us strength to supplement our faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. Prevent us from being ineffective or unfruitful in our vocations. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- M: By Your Holy Spirit, lead us not to practice our righteousness before others but to pray, fast, and give alms humbly for Your glory and for the good of our neighbor. Grant that we seek the righteousness that avails before God's judgment seat in You alone. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**

- M: You know everything we need before we ask. Plead to the Father on our behalf so that, even though our own prayers are insufficient, we may nonetheless receive everything we need for the sake of Your merits; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

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.

THE BLESSING

- 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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Our Eyes Behold the Savior's Face

Lisa M. Clark

MARTYRDOM
Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824



1 Our eyes be - hold the Sav - ior's face And
2 Our fo - cus flits and fails to see The
3 Our sights train on the dread - ful cross. Be -
4 Our vi - sion blurs with anx - ious tears As
5 Our view scans for the com - ing Day That



yet can - not per - ceive That His per - spec - tive
One whose stead - fast gaze Pro - pelled Him to the
neath His know - ing eyes, Our sins are bare and
Je - sus' eye - lids fall To con - quer sin and
ev - er - more grows near, When Je - sus wipes our



held our grace Be - fore we could be - lieve.
dark - ened tree En - vel - oped in death's haze.
set for loss; He sees us as His prize.
all our fears And tear in two our pall.
tears a - way And all is crys - tal clear.

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Tune: Public domain

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

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 good and right so to do.

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.* Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus – sanctus means “holy.” Used as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians by the fourteenth century.*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION - *The Words of institution both proclaim the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's Supper.*

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

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

Participation in the Sacrament is an expression of a common faith. Our guests today who are not members of a congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or a church in fellowship with the WELS) are invited to speak with the pastor to learn how you might receive the sacrament with us in the future.

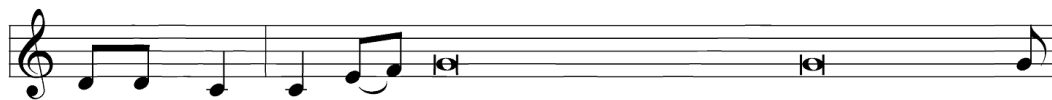
THANKSGIVING

Stand

SONG OF SIMEON – *Nunc Dimittis*



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-



pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M:

C:

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

As the congregation exits the church this evening, those who received the imposition of ashes today are invited to use the water of the font to wash the ashes away. Those who do not have ash to remove are encouraged to dip their hand in the font and make the sign of the cross over themselves. This action (for those with or without ashes) is a good reminder as we embark on this penitential season that baptism has removed the filth of sin from us, and that we have been “marked on the head and on the heart as redeemed children of God.” May you be reminded of your baptismal grace every day! Peace be to you!