

Where your  
treasure is,  
there your heart  
will be also

MATTHEW 6:21



+ Ash Wednesday +

**February 17, 2021**

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## ABOUT RE<sup>+</sup>LENT

**Relent** means “to give up or abandon—to become less severe, to soften” and is of central importance to the passage from Joel that sets the tone for Lent: “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?” (2:13b-14). **Re-** is a prefix meaning “to go back or retrace to the original—to do again.” In the season of **Lent** (which has its origin in the root of the word “length”), we head through lengthening daylight toward Easter/spring and find that as we face what darkens our lives (Rebelliousness, Excuses, Lambasting, Excess, Negativity, & Trashing) and relent, we discover anew the blessing of loss and gain through the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

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Regarding Holy Communion: Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the forty days of Lent mark off our journey to Easter. When we were baptized into the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the sign of the cross was made upon our foreheads and hearts to mark us as people redeemed by the cross of the Christ. We rose to newness of life through the resurrection of Jesus and began a life of pilgrimage in faith. The cross of ash made on our foreheads at the beginning of Lent reminds us that the Christian life is one of repentance (or change from wrongs done) ... a life of constant returning to our Lord’s Table to be forgiven and renewed, for here we have the bread of Christ’s Body and the wine of his Blood as strength for the journey. **Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.**

**Liturgical Color:**

**Purple is the color of humility and repentance.**

*Each week as we head toward Good Friday, a candle is extinguished on the Lenten wreath since darkness comes before the bright dawn of Easter morning.*

*Near the large cross by the pulpit is a basket with slips of paper, pencils, and tacks. Feel free to write down any of your burdens, worries, wrongs, and sins and tack them to the cross at any time during this season of Lent. They will not be read but removed on Good Friday and burned in the Easter Vigil fire on Holy Saturday. Our Lord takes our darkness and replaces it with his light!*

## ✠ THE CROSS OF ASHES ✠

*Why ashes? On Ash Wednesday, many congregations practice the imposition of ashes. But why? The imposition of ashes can be a powerful, tactile reminder of both Law and Gospel in which worshipers of any age can take part. Many times, the words “dust you are, and to dust you shall return” are spoken as ashes are received on the forehead. These words remind us that as a result of sin and the fall, death is a reality. Ashes also call to mind the practice in Scripture of wearing sackcloth and ashes as a sign of sorrow and repentance of sin. Typically, however, the ashes are marked in the shape of the cross, pointing us to the promise of forgiveness of sin through Jesus’ crucifixion for us. After leaving worship, we will each eventually wash off the ashen cross. As we splash water on our foreheads, we remember our Baptism, where we were cleansed of sin through water and the Word. Whether literally marked with ashes or not, we all enter this penitential season of Lent praying that God Almighty would have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.*

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

*Stand*

### **Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### **Call to Worship (Joel 2:12-19)**

**P** “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.”

**C** **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.**

- P** 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?
- C** **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.**
- P** 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,
- C** **“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?’”**
- P** Then the Lord became jealous for His land and had pity on His people. The Lord answered and said to His people,
- C** **“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.**

## **Confessional Address and Absolution**

- P** As we begin this Lenten season, we may not be wearing sackcloth and ashes, but we are heeding our Lord’s call to “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” We join in King David’s prayer of confession in Psalm 51.

## **Psalm 51:1-13**

- P** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
- C** **a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**
- P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;
- C** **according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**
- P** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
- C** **and cleanse me from my sin!**
- P** For I know my transgressions,
- C** **and my sin is ever before me.**
- P** Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,
- C** **so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**
- P** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- C** **Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

**P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

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

**P** Let me hear joy and gladness;

**C** let the bones that You have broken rejoice.

**P** Hide Your face from my sins,

**C** and blot out all my iniquities.

**P** Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**C** and renew a right spirit within me.

**P** Cast me not away from Your presence,

**C** and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

**P** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

**C** and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**P** Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

**C** **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.**

**P** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**C** a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

**P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, our God has called us to return to Him so that we might be reconciled and receive the reward of His forgiveness. The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

**Hymn.....** *"Today Your Mercy Calls Us" #915 (1 & 4)*



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.  
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,  
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,  
 When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.  
 We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

**C** 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 and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament ..... Isaiah 30:8-18

And now, go, write it before them on a tablet  
 and inscribe it in a book,  
 that it may be for the time to come  
 as a witness forever.

For they are a rebellious people,  
 lying children,  
 children unwilling to hear  
 the instruction of the Lord;  
 who say to the seers, "Do not see,"  
 and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right;  
 speak to us smooth things,  
 prophesy illusions,  
 leave the way, turn aside from the path,  
 let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel,  
 "Because you despise this word

and trust in oppression and perverseness  
and rely on them,  
therefore this iniquity shall be to you  
like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse,  
whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant;  
and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel  
that is smashed so ruthlessly  
that among its fragments not a shard is found  
with which to take fire from the hearth,  
or to dip up water out of the cistern."

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,  
"In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

But you were unwilling, and you said,  
"No! We will flee upon horses";  
therefore you shall flee away;  
and, "We will ride upon swift steeds";  
therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;  
at the threat of five you shall flee,  
till you are left  
like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,  
like a signal on a hill.

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you,  
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.

For the Lord is a God of justice;  
blessed are all those who wait for him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Epistle.....Acts 7:51-8:3, 9:10-22**

Stephen said, "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of

God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.



**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Holy Gospel ..... Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “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.

**Hymn of the Day ..... “As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered” #612**



1 As reb - els, Lord, who fool - ish - ly have wan - dered  
2 Still we re - turn, our con - trite words re - hears - ing,  
3 A feast of love for us You are pre - par - ing;



Far from Your love— un - fed, un - clean, un - clothed—  
 Speech, that with - in Your warm em - brace soon dies;  
 We who were lost, You give an hon - ored place!



Dare we re - call Your wealth so rash - ly squan - dered,  
 All of our guilt, our shame, our pain re - vers - ing  
 "Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more de - spair - ing—



Dare hope to glean that boun - ty which we loathed?  
 As tears of joy and wel - come fill Your eyes.  
 Here taste a - gain the trea - sures of My grace."

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*Sit*

**Homily**..... "RE+LENTing from Rebelliousness"

*Stand*

**Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God,  
 the Father Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth  
 and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the only-begotten Son of God,  
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
 God of God, Light of Light,  
 very God of very God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 being of one substance with the Father,  
 by whom all things were made;  
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
 and was made man;  
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
 He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Offering**

*Offering plates will not be passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the entrance.*

*“Through him (Jesus) then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:15-16)*

## **Prayer of the Church**

- P** O Lord, we thank You for calling us to return to You.
- C** **We place our confidence and trust in the reality that You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and You relent over disaster.**
- P** O Lord, through Christ, You reconciled us to Yourself and have given us the ministry of reconciliation.
- C** **We are Your servants. Lead and empower us by Your Spirit to live lives worthy of this calling that we have received.**
- P** O Lord, You have freely rewarded us with the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.
- C** **Lead us to serve You in secret as we would with the world watching so that others may see You through us to their intercessions and thanksgiving.**
- C** **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 Your own; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Hymn**..... *“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Has Blessed” #560*



1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With heal - ing  
 2 Thou know - est all my griefs and fears, Thy grace a -  
 3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; Let noth - ing  
 4 And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so



gifts for souls dis - tressed, To find in Thee my  
 bused, my mis - spent years; Yet now to Thee with  
 of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing, though it  
 sweet a ser - vice be That an - gels well might



life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
 con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
 be through pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
 en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

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✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**Preface**

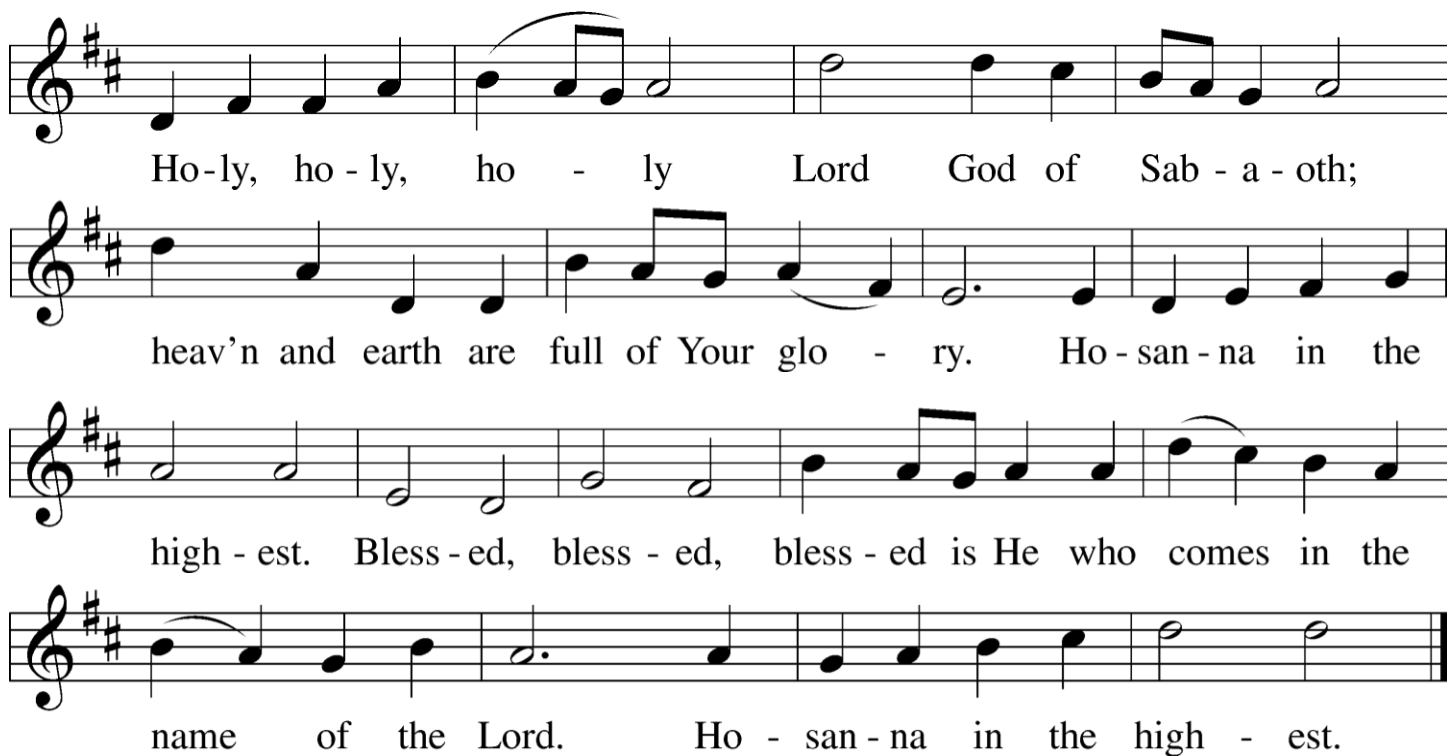
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Life up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**Proper Preface**

- P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a

ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Easter feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus**..... *“Holy, Holy, Holy” #961*



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed, bless - ed, bless - ed is He who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for You called us to return to You to receive Your grace and mercy as it is freely offered through Your only-begotten Son, who bore our sin to be our Savior so that we might be reconciled by His blood. With cleansed and renewed hearts, we receive the salvation won for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and blood—once for all time.

Gathered together as Your people and reconciled through the very blood of Christ, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My X body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My X blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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.**

## Pax Domini

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

**C** **Amen.**

# Agnus Dei Hymn ..... "Lamb of God" #550



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have  
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a  
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.  
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

*Refrain*



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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**Sit**

*(Those receiving ashes, a blessing, and/or Holy Communion will be ushered out of their pews to approach the front.)*

## **The Imposition of Ashes and Distribution of Communion**

*To receive a cross of ash on your forehead, simply step toward the elder at the right before proceeding to the pastor for either the Communion host or a blessing. If partaking of the Lord's Supper, the words spoken about Adam's sin and death [Gen. 3:19] are met by Jesus words about partaking his flesh and blood and being raised up from death to life on the last day [John 6:54].*

*Distribution of the Lord's gifts in Holy Communion is in standing format with the pastor and the elder near the chancel steps. Pastor will drop the wafer into your hands, so please cup them together and hold them chest-level. Individual plastic cups*

only are being used, so if you're not taking the non-alcoholic wine from the center, please make sure to take from the outer circle first until all of those are gone before reaching for the next level in. A basket to the left of the table is available for you to place your used cup inside.

## Distribution Hymns..... Paula Easterwood

### Stand

## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Let us pray.

**C** We thank You, almighty God, for calling us to return to You, reconciling us through the sacrifice of Your one and only Son, Jesus Christ, and rewarding us with forgiveness, life, salvation, and Your continual presence. Thank You for nourishing our bodies and souls with Your Son's body and blood that was given and shed for us. Empower us by Your Spirit to live lives of service to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Benediction

**P** People of God, who have returned and are reconciled and rewarded, receive the blessing of our Lord.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

**C** Amen.

## Sending Hymn..... "May We Thy Precepts, Lord Fulfill" #698 (1-2)



1 May we Thy pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill And do on  
2 So may we join Thy name to bless, Thy grace a -



earth our Fa - ther's will As an - gels do a - bove;  
dore, Thy pow'r con - fess, From sin and strife to flee.



Still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, With all Thy  
One is our call - ing, one our name, The end of





chil-dren and o - bey The law of Chris - tian love.  
all our hopes the same, A crown of life with Thee.

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## Dismissal

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

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## Serving us this evening:

Elder ..... Jack Easterwood, Jeremy VanWey  
Musicians ..... Paula Easterwood  
Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding  
Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker  
Flower Committee ..... Penny Humphrey (Chair), Sheree Moody

## This Week's Schedule

Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	7:00 p.m.	Mary-Martha Guild Meeting (rescheduled date)
	7:00 p.m.	Jesus' Last Week-Zoom Bible Study
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at <a href="http://www.blchurch.com">www.blchurch.com</a> , under the Sermons tab)
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School—Jr. and Sr. Youth
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion

## Prayers

**For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision**—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization & rehabilitation: Leora Baack (Charlene McCarter's mother), Pr. Ricky Bertels, Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Denise (Penny Humphrey's sister), Marion & Leona Droege, Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Roy Hillmann (Bonnie Rich's father), Don Hillsman, Sharon Hochsprung, Mary Johnson, Creed Kueker (Pr. Jesse Kueker's son—Trinity, Clinton),

Marty Lehn, Marvin Logan (Nicole Clemons' father), Troy McCarter (Lloyd McCarter's brother), Kathy Marshall, Johnny Nichol, Jim Rudy, Lynne Trimble (Kaye Fair's sister), and Paula Willis (Bonnie Rich's friend). *We remember as well all who are dealing with COVID—19, especially the healthcare providers who are straining to prevent, stem the spread, and treat those who are ill!*

**For Pregnant Mothers**, especially Brittany Brown as she and her husband Joe await childbirth this year. May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

**For Seminarian** Jonathan Sharp (and his wife Bridgette) as he continues his studies and prepares to receive his vicarage assignment at the end of April.

**For Military Members**—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter, Ethan Hillsman, Chance Hillsman and Logan LeBaige.

### Worship Services (Masks required at all services)

**Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** You can also watch it live on Facebook or YouTube, or go to it directly from the webpage at [blchurch.com](http://blchurch.com).

**Saturday Services are at 5:30 p.m.** The order of worship is the shorter service of Early Evening Prayer. Holy Communion is observed on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> weekends of the month, as has been our regular practice.

**Re<sup>+</sup>lent** means “to give up or abandon—to become less severe, to soften” and is of central importance to the passage from Joel that sets the tone for Lent: “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?” (2:13b-14). **Re-** is a prefix meaning “to go back or retrace to the original—to do again.” In the season of **Lent** (which has its origin in the root of the word “length”), we head through lengthening daylight toward Easter/spring and find that as we face what darkens our lives. Join us for the following Wednesday Services as we discover anew the blessing of loss and gain through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. **Join us on Wednesday: February 24-Excuses, March 3-Lambasting, March 10-Excess, March 17-Negativity, & March 24-Trashing.**

### Service Opportunities

**Hygiene Product Collection**—during the month of February, Mary-Martha Guild and the Mission Board will be collecting hygiene products for Nursing Homes and the Food Center. There is a container by the north entrance where you can leave items that you would like to donate. Some things might include shampoo,

deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. These things are extremely needed and will be very much appreciated!

**Food Center Needs:** pouch tuna, canned meats, cake mixes and icing, diapers, jelly in squeezable bottles. Other staples are also welcome. Donations can be dropped off at 137 E. Culton, **T & TR, 1-4 pm & Saturday, 9-11 am** or left at the north church entrance in the round barrel by the bulletin board.

### Faith Discussion and Bible Study

**Let It FLOW!**—All junior and senior high youth are welcomingly encouraged to attend this Bible study being led by Pr. Joel on every Sunday morning **from now until February 28th** (in the downstairs youth room) **from 9:30—10:10 a.m.** We're focusing on what Jesus meant about coming "For the Life Of the World" and what that means for us and the purpose of our lives. Each session includes viewing a superb video and having a discussion that bridges us from there to Scripture and daily life. So, whether you attend Sunday school every week, hardly ever, or never, please consider attending this excellent and engaging study before it's over! Jeremy VanWey will be starting **a new one on March 7th** that will be exploring C.S. Lewis's classic on the wily ways of evil, *The Screwtape Letters*.

**Zoom Bible Study—Open to Everyone.** This Bible study began is being held weekly on **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.** We're looking at "**Jesus' Final Week**" from Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, and the trial to Jesus' death and resurrection. Focusing on these events will bring new understanding to who Jesus is and how he loves us. **Please contact Cindy or Rebecca if you are interested in joining this class so that we can get materials out to you.** It's not too late to join!

**Resuming Romans Study on Sunday Mornings!** To all who attended the Sunday Bible study last year and didn't think we'd finish Romans by the end of the year, you were right! We will be **resuming on Sunday, March 7th from 9:30-10:10 a.m.,** keeping it a bit shorter while still packing a lot in. We'll be meeting in the conference room, unless you hear otherwise. Please consider joining us!

### Miscellaneous

**Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care**—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain and needing to talk and be encouraged in the living of life from day to day, don't hesitate to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

## Offerings

You can mail your offerings to Bethlehem and have pastor put it in the offering plate on the altar with a prayer of trust for you, or you can give through the online offering called “*Simply Giving*”.

## Elders

**Jeff Harris** (last name begins A-E) 660-624-1571, [elvis100669@yahoo.com](mailto:elvis100669@yahoo.com)

**Willie Crespo** (last name begins F-H) 660-679-8121, [willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com](mailto:willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com)

**Jack Easterwood** (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, [easter.egg2380@gmail.com](mailto:easter.egg2380@gmail.com)

**Caleb Thomas** (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, [calebthomas50@gmail.com](mailto:calebthomas50@gmail.com)

**Jeremy VanWey** (last name begins S-Z) 606-909-4765, [jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com)

## Contact Information

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093**

### **Our Mission**

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

### **Our Vision**

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.

#### **Rev. Joel R. Kurz**

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am-5pm

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: [pastor@blchurch.com](mailto:pastor@blchurch.com)

Website: [www.blchurch.com](http://www.blchurch.com)      Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

#### **Office Manager:**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

[officemanager@blchurch.com](mailto:officemanager@blchurch.com)

#### **Congregational Life Facilitator:**

Rebecca Stewart

MTW: 8am-2pm

Thursday by appointment

[clf@blchurch.com](mailto:clf@blchurch.com)

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 3pm–6pm

Thursday by appointment

[financial@blchurch.com](mailto:financial@blchurch.com)

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for the viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.