

JOEL 2:12

Return  
to God  
with  
all your  
heart



+ Ash Wednesday +  
**March 2, 2022**

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## **AS WE GATHER**

Genesis means “the origin or beginning of something.” The meaning of this word certainly holds true with Scripture, as the Book of Genesis takes us all the way back to the beginning of how everything came to be. From the stars, skies, seas, creatures, plants, and trees, to the crown of the Lord’s creation with humanity and soon after their fall into sin, we get a clear origin of who we are, why the world is the way it is now, and what the Lord has promised to do to redeem it and His people. From the very first promise of a Savior, a new beginning, which would come through Jesus Christ, was established.

Along the way through the Old Testament, and here in the Book of Genesis, we get a foreshadowing of our Savior’s redemptive work through the people the Lord would use to fulfill His mission and purposes. Throughout this Lenten time, we will journey with Joseph in Genesis, and through his experiences we will be brought to the cross of Christ. We will see how like Joseph, Jesus will be rejected, abused, yet also ultimately raised up. Like Joseph providing food for the nations, Jesus provides nourishment for those spiritually starving. Like Joseph forgiving his brothers, Jesus will bring forgiveness and reconciliation for the world. But unlike Joseph, Jesus will do all things perfectly in His journey to the cross carrying the sins of the world.

As we begin tonight with “The Genesis of Joseph,” we learn of God remembering Rachel as Joseph’s life began. Even as we with ashes remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return, we are affirmed in hope that God has remembered us in Jesus, His one and only Son.

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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 ✠**

**Choral Meditation**..... “Hear My Cry, O Lord”

**Stand**

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

**Psalm 51:1-3, 7-13** ..... *(spoken in unison)*

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.  
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

**Kyrie**..... *(spoken in unison)*

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

## Invitation to Lent

**P** In this Lenten season, we journey with Joseph in Genesis

**C** and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.

**P** Joseph's journey begins with God remembering his mother, Rachel. Our journey also has begun with God remembering us. Amid our sinful and fallen state, as dust we are and to dust we shall return, we come before the Lord with the words of the Psalmist:

I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and He will hear me.

**C** In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.

**P** When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints.

**C** You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

**P** I consider the days of old, the years long ago.

**C** I said, "Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart."

**Hymn**..... *"Savior, When in Dust to Thee" #419 (v. 1)*

1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

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## Confession

**P** We are dust, and to dust we shall return. But our God is faithful and just, and He remembers us. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess to You that we have broken Your commandments by our own thoughts, words, and deeds. We have failed to be the people You have called us to be. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as we ought. So often we fail to remember Your promises, Your presence, and Your perfect plan. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, and give us the healing power of Your love that we may walk again in Your ways and live to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

## Absolution

**P** God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and has remembered us and remembered His promises. As a called and ordained 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.

## Hymn..... *"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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## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

**Old Testament** ..... **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, 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.**

## Gradual

**P** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

**C** **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## Epistle.....2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

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. We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



**Hymn**..... *“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” #422*



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

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**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 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** ..... *“O Christ, You Walked the Road” #424 (v. 1-3)*



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan - d'ring feet must go.  
2 No bread of earth a - lone Can fill our hun - g'ring hearts.  
3 No blind - ing sign we ask, No won - der from a - bove.



You faced with us temp - ta - tion's pow'r And fought our an - cient foe.  
Lord, help us seek Your liv - ing Word, The food Your grace im - parts.  
Lord, help us place our trust a - lone In Your un - swerv - ing love.

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*Sit*

**Homily**..... *“The Genesis of Joseph & Our Return” (Genesis 30:22-24)*

*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

*Worshippers may place their offerings into the plate located at the front 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** Let us pray for the Church . . .

**C** Remember us, O God.

*(Additional petitions)*

**P** . . .

**C** Amen.

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

## Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift 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 singing:

## 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, . . . with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ . . . 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

### 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.

## The Meaning of Ashes

Throughout the Bible, ashes have been associated with humility, repentance, and mortality. In Genesis, we read of the great patriarch: “Abraham answered and said, ‘Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes’” (Genesis 18:27). In Job, we read that the long-suffering Job said of his life: “I have become like dust and ashes” (Job 30:19b). Daniel the prophet states: “Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking Him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes” (Daniel 9:3). Ash Wednesday brings us the opportunity to follow the pattern set by our spiritual ancestors and to begin the observance of “a holy Lent” as we come before the Lord in ashes.

*(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 raise your head up while at the altar rail—the elder will make that sign of the cross before the pastor comes with either the Communion host or a blessing. If partaking of the Lord’s Supper, the words spoken about hardship 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 Hymn ..... “Come Down, O Love Divine” #501

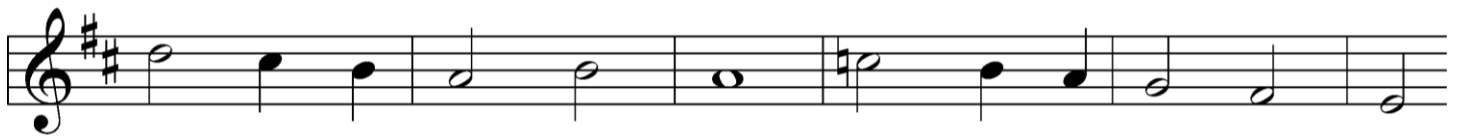
(This Pentecost hymn is a plea for the Holy Spirit’s purifying flame to turn our worldly passions into dust and ashes and for glorious light to clothe us anew. How might tonight and this season of Lent be a dedicated time for that?)



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; Seek Thou this soul of mine,  
2 O let it free - ly burn, Till world - ly pas - sions turn  
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty Mine out - ward ves - ture be  
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, With which the soul will long,



And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
And low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
Shall far out - pass the pow’r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; With - in my heart ap - pear,  
 And let Thy glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,  
 True low - li - ness of heart, Which takes the hum - bler part,  
 No soul can guess His grace Till it be - come the place

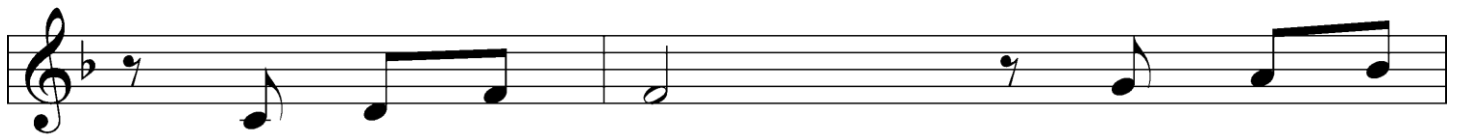


And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 And o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
 Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

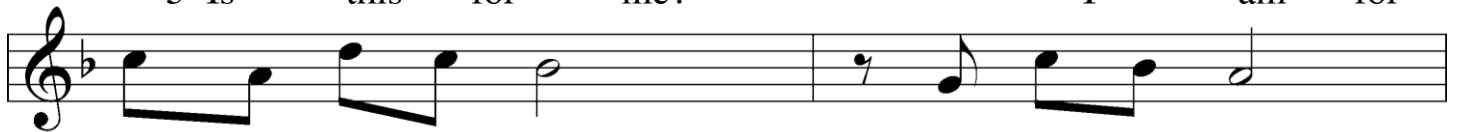
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## Distribution Hymn ..... *“What Is This Bread” #629*

(This Communion hymn asks questions and gives answers to make us see more clearly what we might have taken for granted, forgotten, or never quite pondered before. . . and it gives an invitation to come and partake. How can you see the Lord’s Supper more clearly in this season of fasting as the feast of Christ’s grace it is?)



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ’s	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from	the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	The	cup	of	grace
live	and	He	should	Un - der	the	rod?	
Word	and	prom - ise	clear,	In	mouth	and	soul
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be - lieve	



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em - brace		Of	life	and	love	un - til	I	
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for - sak - en		
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru - ly	pres - ent	in	this		
That	I	re - ceive		His	ver - y	bod - y	and	His		



lease.	O taste and see—	the Lord is peace.
sing!	O taste and see—	the Lord is King.
me?	O taste and see—	the Lord is free.
meal.	O taste and see—	the Lord is real.
blood.	O taste and see—	the Lord is good.

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*Stand*

**Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Parting Words**

**P** In this Lenten season, we journey with Joseph in Genesis

**C** and come to the cross of Christ on Calvary.

**P** God remembered Rachel and gave to her Joseph.

**C** God has remembered us in Jesus, His Son.

**Benediction**

**P** 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..... "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" #418**



1 O	Lord,	through	- out	these	for - ty	days	You
2 You	strove	with	Sa -	tan,	and You	won;	Your
3 Though	parched	and	hun -	gry,	yet You	prayed	And
4 Be	with	us	through	this	sea -	son,	Lord,
							And





prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance  
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your  
 fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -  
 all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.  
 skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.  
 ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.  
 Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

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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:

Elders.....Ricky Bertels, Willie Crespo, Alan Miller  
 Musicians ..... Rich Vanderburgh  
 Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding  
 Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker  
 Flower Committee ..... Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

## This Week's Schedule

Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at WCS
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom-Epiphany Bible Class
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
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)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	1:00 p.m.	Adult Catechesis

## Prayers

**For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision**—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, are undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Paula Brewer, Felisa Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Barb Compton, Mollie Dinwiddie, Marion & Leona Droege, Renae Ernesti (Charlene McCarter’s niece), Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Maxine Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Marty Lehn, Heather Long (Carol Kurz’s great-niece), Lynn Lowe, Ron Niemeyer, Pam Petersen (Peggy Hoyer’s sister), Judy Pierce, Rose Steitz, Patsy Theroff (Melvin’s niece), Linda Tomblinson, Betty Wienberg, and Joe Zeman.

**For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers)**, especially Caitlin and Eric Hulshizer (due in less than a month!) and Samantha & Nathan Schultz (Mark and Felisa Brown’s daughter & son-in-law). May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

**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, Gabe Crespo, Luke Lockard (Limback’s grandson) and Chance Hillsman.

**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!

## Worship Services

**Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** Sunday’s Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at [blchurch.com](http://blchurch.com).

**Take a Lenten Journey with Joseph**—The last thirteen of Genesis’s fifty chapters deal exclusively with the epic saga of Joseph. While his name means “he adds/increases,” for a long stretch it seemed nothing but unlucky—subtraction and decreasing to say the least! Nevertheless, Joseph’s life of being sinned against by others became a powerful demonstration of the Lord’s faithful mercy and freeing forgiveness. It’s really no surprise that surveying the pivotal events of his life helps us grasp more insightfully the suffering and saving life-work of Jesus. **Join us for Wednesdays in Lent** as we undertake *A Lenten Journey with Joseph* and see how it all relates to the intersection of our lives with Joseph’s—and more, with the cross of Jesus. The weekly themes we’ll be exploring are: 1) *The Genesis of Joseph & Our Return*, 2) *A Wondrous Silence*, 3) *A Miracle of Miracles*, 4) *Wait for the Lord*, 5)

*Chased by a Dirty Conscience, 6) God Does Have a Plan, 7) Forgiveness Finished (Good Friday). All services will be at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, with Holden Evening Prayer—except for Good Friday.*

**Spring Mission Festival**—The weekend services on **March 26 & 27** will call attention to the ongoing work of Food For The Poor—an ecumenical Christian agency (based in Florida) which provides life's basic necessities to the impoverished in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our guest preacher and speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Roy Maack, the former Southeastern District President of the LCMS. This will be his second visit to Bethlehem. *Maybe consider saving up your Lenten alms (offerings for the needy— which can easily collect from money you're not spending on what you're fasting from this Lent) to donate to FFTP that weekend!* To learn more about what they do and where, go to [foodforthe poor.org](http://foodforthe poor.org).

### Sunday School and Christian Education

**Sunday School for PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grade begins at 9:15 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity for children and youth to grow in knowledge of Scripture and in love toward the Lord and our neighbors, as Jesus said matters most!

### Youth Opportunities

**Third Sunday at Three**—All junior and senior high youth are invited (and encouraged) to join up here **on that day (March 20) and that time (3:00 p.m.)** for this monthly youth get-together and activity time. In March, we'll be doing the yardwork we didn't get done for the church members in February due to snow, so come dressed for the outdoors. There will also be time for faith-sharing and planning. **We'll wrap up by 5:00 p.m.**

### Lenten Home Devotions

**Devotions** for the season of Lent are available for you to take home from Lutheran Hour Ministries, Higher Things, and Creative Communications for the Parish. Printed copies (also available in large print) can be found at both entrances of the church building. If you would like one mailed or delivered to you, please let the office know.

**Reflecting on Jesus' Cross (and Ours) this Lent**—A wooden cross and devotional card will be handed out to each household after tonight's service ... and each week an accompanying item will be given as well. Set the cross in a prominent place within your home and reflect on the connected passages from Scripture (and each new item) throughout each week, then incorporate what you glean from that in your prayers and actions and share that with someone else who might need to hear that.

## Bible Study & Faith Discussion

**Sunday Bible Study** is working through the book *Death, Heaven, Reurrection, and the New Creation* (by Concordia Seminary faculty) and discussing our way through Scripture and personal experiences so that we can all be strengthened in believing and living through Christ's own life, death, and resurrection. Plan to join us **in the conference room from 9:15 to 10:10 a.m.!**

**Wednesday Bible Study** is currently exploring the short book of Jonah. Join us **in the conference room from 10:30 to noon** as we see what Jonah has to do with us.

**Thursday "Lent/Easter Zoom Bible Study** is a Zoom Bible study that will begin **Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be discussing God's forgiving love for us in Christ Jesus. This Bible Study focuses on the scripture readings each Sunday. If you would like to join, please contact Cindy or Rebecca if you are interested in joining this class.

**Four Quarters on Christ**—The natural year has the four quarters of winter, spring, summer, and fall, so we'll aim to fill those—give and take a month here and there—with opportunities to see Jesus the Christ more clearly (read the Pastor's Page). Based on John Stott's four-part exploration called *The Incomparable Christ, we'll begin on Thursday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m.* with a talk and discussion on "The Original Jesus: How the New Testament Witnesses to Him." Invite a friend, since this will be open to anyone who wants to come. Also, bring a quarter, if you can!

## Opportunities to Help & Serve

**March Brings Spring!** Keep your eyes open for opportunities to help with the ongoing transformation of our Bethlehem Community Garden to raised beds, plus help with planting, cutting back the herb garden, and all sorts of other necessary and enjoyable tasks. If you want to make sure you know about work days and opportunities, let Pr. Joel or Shawn Lindley know so that we can make sure you're aware of what's happening and needs to be done.

**Bethlehem's 2022 SHINE! Event**—Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 30, from 10-noon** (plus early and after for set-up and take-down) as we host an outdoor community outreach event called *Grow Green—Glow & Glean*. The morning will focus on stewardship living which is rooted in the Lord's Good Earth and known by growth, harvest, and generous sharing. Hopefully there'll be workshops, hands-on planting, free seeds and free raffles, information to glean, plus an appearance by the Green Lantern (if we have a volunteer who wants to take on that role). This is our unique congregational effort, as part of the district-wide outreach initiative, so the more members who help—including in the planning and preparation—the

better! **Let the church office know ASAP if you'd like to help and in what way.** More details will be forthcoming.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars**—Members with 2021 choice dollars available need to designate these funds **before March 31** or they will expire. You may direct your choice dollars to: Bethlehem or your choice of another organization on the Thrivent list. Choice Dollars may be designated at [Thrivent.com/Thrivent choice](https://www.thrivent.com/Thrivent-choice) or by calling 800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice". This past year Bethlehem Thrivent members used \$1,000 of choice dollars to assist with the Warrensburg Angel Tree Project. Please contact Larry Haase if you have questions about any of our activities including Choice Dollars and Action Team Projects.

**Worship Readers/Lectors**—Please consider volunteering to assist in congregational worship by reading the first two Scripture passages during Saturday or Sunday services! There is a sign-up sheet on the board by the mailboxes, and the Scripture readings are listed by each date. Pr. Joel is available to provide suggestions for those who'd like to have some.

**The Warrensburg Food Center** is in need of the following items: smaller boxes of dried cereal, this time. Please throw in a few items when you are doing your grocery shopping to help the Food Center. You can place them in the basket by the bulletin board at the north entrance of the building for delivery to the Food Center.

### Fellowship

**Exercise Class** is being held at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone, men or women. For more information, contact Judy Smith.

**The Games and Card Group** meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth room downstairs. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

**The Quilting Group** meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday** of the month from **9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

### Miscellaneous

**Country Kitchen Cards are available!** You can get 10 buy-one, get-one meal **FREE** coupons for just **\$10.00**. All proceeds go towards helping the youth group. See a youth member, or you can stop by the office and purchase one.

**Ongoing thanks** to those who generously give to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund, which enables Pr. Joel to assist members and certain people in the community who are in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support!

### Offerings

*Simply Giving* is the online program for donations and offerings. The website has changed a bit recently. If you need assistance, please let the office know and we will provide you with the steps to start it or help you change where you place your funds.

### 2022 Elders

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

**Ricky Bertels** (last name begins E-H), 660-262-8080, [rick1janice2@gmail.com](mailto:rick1janice2@gmail.com)

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

**Alan Miller** (last name begins Mc-R) 660-909-1764, [alormiller@aol.com](mailto:alormiller@aol.com)

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

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## *A Lenten Journey with Joseph* All services begin at 7:00 p.m.



**March 2**-Ash Wednesday (Holy Communion)

*"The Genesis of Joseph"*

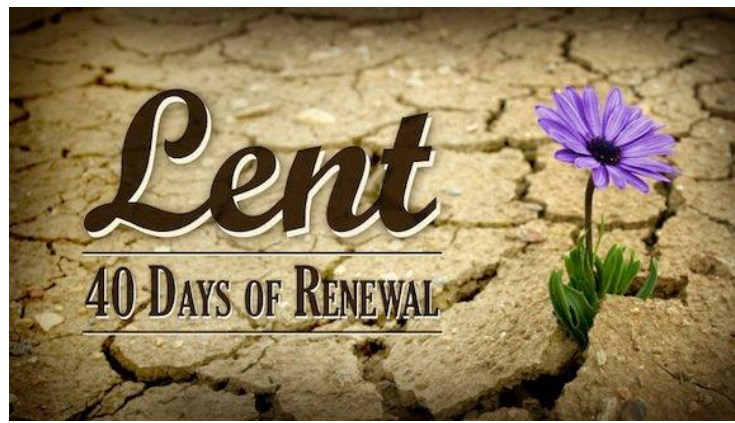
**March 9**—*"A Wondrous Silence"*

**March 16**—*"A Miracle of Miracles"*

**March 23**—*"Wait for the Lord"*

**March 30**—*"Chased by a Dirty Conscience"*

**April 6**—*"God Does Have a Plan"*



**QUESTION: What is the significance of Lent?**

**ANSWER:** Early in the Church's history, the major events in Christ's life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, baptism, death, resurrection and ascension.

As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well.

By not using the alleluia — a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" — until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year.

Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday.

This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Rom. 6:1-11).

This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God. ([lcms.org/about/beliefs](http://lcms.org/about/beliefs)).

## 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

Tue & Thurs: 8am-5pm

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.