An abstract painting with a rich, textured background of purple, red, green, and blue. A prominent white vertical stroke runs down the center, resembling a sword or a beam of light. The overall style is expressive and modern.

Where
your
treasure
is,

there
your
heart will
be also

MATTHEW 6:21



+ Ash Wednesday +

February 14, 2024

*The Carpenter's Cross: Making, Building, Repairing
Greenwood, Drywood, & Heartwood*

AS WE GATHER

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a period of 40 days known for its disciplines, such as fasting, praying, and devotional reading. As we receive the ashes upon our foreheads in a very visible way, it's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that our Lenten disciplines are for the sake of showing our piety to others. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. The focus of Lent is not on our sacrifices for God but on His ultimate sacrifice for us in Jesus Christ. Lent calls us to fully turn to Christ, repenting of our sin and receiving anew His saving mercies in the treasures of His Word. While the ashes of this special day remind us that we are dying, Christ's body and blood are offered to us as proof that, in Christ, we are brought to life again. Life is ours, full and free, because of the sacrifice of Christ, who breathes new life into the dust of our death.

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 will be 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. The words “remember that you are dust, 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, 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 Invitation to Lent *“Seekers of Your Heart”*

Please rise.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Psalm 51 *(spoken responsively)*

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.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

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.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,

and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;

you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;

build up the walls of Jerusalem;

then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;

then bulls will be offered on your altar.

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.

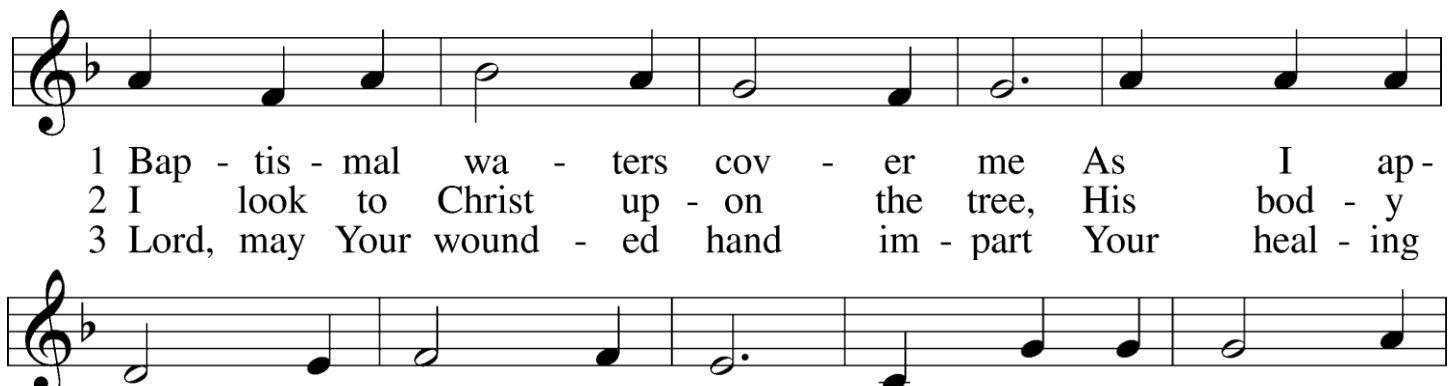
Confession and Absolution

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
P The ashes of our sin remind us of the curse of death and our need for Your redemption.
C **For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and renew us. Mark us with Your cross and take our sins from us. Help us to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
P Almighty God in His mercy delivered His Son over to the death of the cross to bear the burden of our brokenness, becoming sin for us "so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). The ashes of your sin have been taken away and you have been marked and redeemed by Christ, the Crucified. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Response Hymn "Baptismal Waters Cover Me", #616 (1-3)



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y
3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing

proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy
bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him
to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
 all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.
 form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.

Text: © 2003 Kurt E. Reinhardt. Tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who come to You in repentance and faith.
- C** **Cleanse us from the ashes of our sin that we may hold fast to the promise that we have been marked and redeemed by the Christ, the Crucified,**
- P** who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

We take a few moments to greet those around us with a handshake or wave as a sign of the forgiveness and coming together in peace we are called to as followers of Jesus (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:14-21). Words to accompany those gestures can be Peace to you, Christ's peace to you, Peace (or something similar). Afterwards, all may be seated.

✠ 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.**

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.

Verse Hymn..... *“Create in Me”, #956*

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 Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text and tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Please rise.

Holy Gospel **Luke 23:26-31**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs

that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon.....“Greenwood, Drywood, & Heartwood”

Response Hymn “Lord of All Hopefulness”, #738 (2)

2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Text: © Oxford University Press. Tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Offering & Offertory

Please rise.

Nicene Creed..... *(back cover of hymnal)*

**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.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- C** **Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.**
- P** let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.**
- ...
- P** For the answering . . . let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lamb of God, have mercy upon us. Answer our prayers in the way that best brings glory to Your holy name. Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

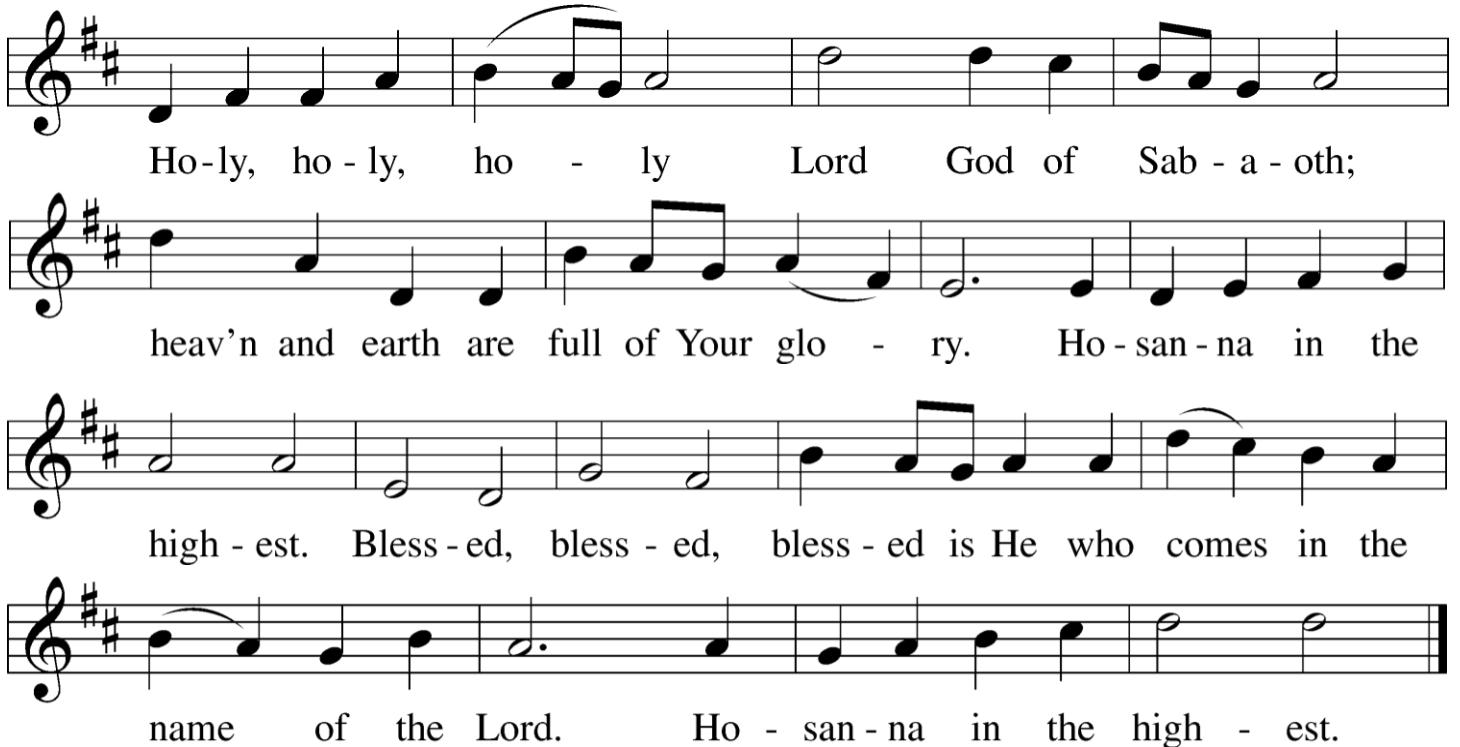
- P** The Lord be with you.

- 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. . . 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.

Text: © 1975 International Consultation on English Texts. Tune: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.
 Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to perfectly obey Your commands and fully redeem us from sin's curse by becoming a curse for us. In repentance and faith, we receive the salvation He accomplished once and for all by His sacrifice on the cross.
- C** Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we ask You, O Lord, to wash away the ashes of our sin and cleanse us as Your marked and redeemed people.
- P** Grant us faithfully to receive our Savior through His body and blood as He invites us to do in this sacred Meal.

C Hear our prayers; deliver and preserve us.

P 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 . . . 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 . . . , So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

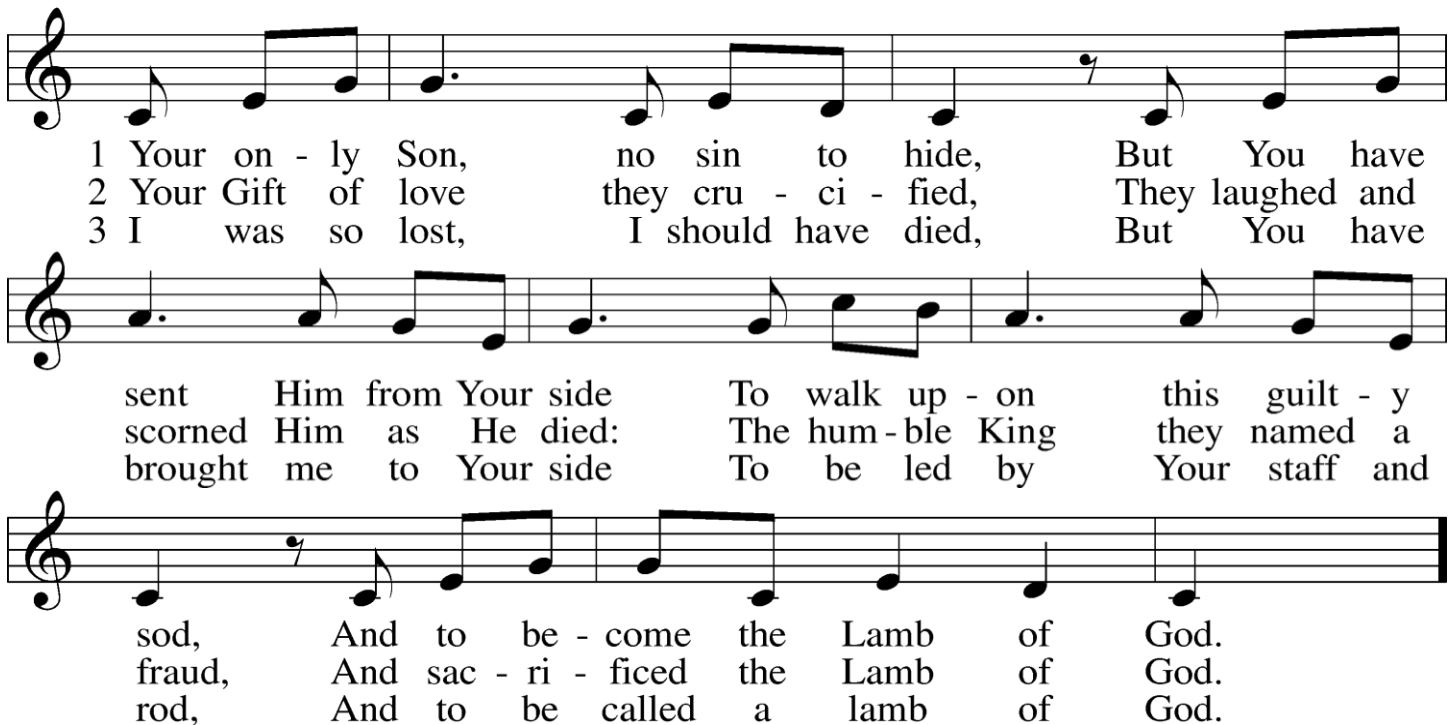
Lord’s Prayer

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.

Tune and text: © 1985 Straightway Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Please be seated.

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 altar.)

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].

Silent Reflection/Instrumental

Distribution Hymn “Baptized into Your Name Most Holy” #590

1 Bap-tized in - to Your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and
 2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, here You take me To be hence-forth Your
 3 My faith - ful God, You fail me nev - er; Your prom - ise sure - ly
 4 All that I am and love most dear-ly— Re - ceive it all, O



Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,
 child and heir. My faith - ful Sav - ior, here You make me
 will en - dure. O cast me not a - way for - ev - er
 Lord, from me. Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly;



A - mong Your saints, Your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and
 The fruit of all Your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it,
 If words and deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I
 Help me Your faith - ful child to be! Let noth - ing that I



dead to sin, Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.
 com - fort me When threat - ning clouds a - round I see.
 come de - filed; For - give, lift up, re - store Your child.
 am or own Serve an - y will but Yours a - lone.

Text and tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Distribution Hymn "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table" #618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Distribution Hymn..... *“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” #641*

Refrain

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat.

Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to You Our praise and
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of
 4 The mys - t'ry of Your pres - ence, Lord, No mor - tal
 5 You give Your - self to us, O Lord; Then self - less

heed his voice; So when You call Your
 grat - i - tude That You should count us
 Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
 tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
 let us be, To serve each oth - er

fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - jice.
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in Your name In truth and char - i - ty.

Text and tune: © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia, admin. International Liturgy Publications.

Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Please rise.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray. O Jesus, Lamb of God, we thank You for refreshing us yet again through Your Word and Sacrament.

C **Assure us by Your Spirit that we have been marked and redeemed by You, the One who was crucified for us;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

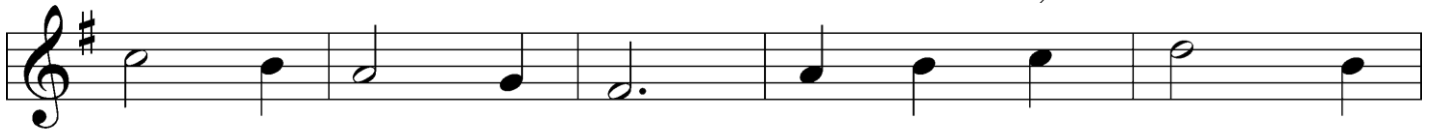
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn..... "Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast 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.

Text and Tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

As you leave, please take a block/piece of scrap wood (as supplies last) and see what you want to do with it that will remind you of tonight's service and our Lenten reflection on Christ the Carpenter who makes, builds, and repairs us! It might even be something to share with someone else.

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Serving us this evening:

Elders.....Evan Florida, Alan Miller, Willie Crespo
Musicians Rich Vanderburgh
Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Bambi Burden,
Julie Crespo, Diana Holland, Georgia Luker
Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday (<i>till noon</i>)
	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Lock-In at Lutheran Campus Center (3-9)



(Taken by Pr. Joel on a November hike)

The Carpenter's Cross
by Caryl Houselander (1955)

+Long before He took hold of this great cross in Jerusalem, He accepted it and rejoiced in it; in the labours and hardships of all working men. He received His Cross as a boy in Nazareth. He welcomed and made His own the labours and necessities of all the workers who would come into the world. Like them He had to toil patiently, perseveringly, to acquire the skill for His craft, gradually to train His hands and His muscles and His mind. Day after day, year after year, He who had created the wood of the trees wrestled with human limitations like other craftsmen, in order to be able to wrest the beauty from the wood, to show its flowing grain, its rose and ivory, its walnut and gold; to polish it with the smooth bright steel of His finely sharpened chisels.

In Nazareth Christ received His cross. Working in the carpenter's shop He laid His hands upon it day after day, the wood that He was to glorify. He sawed and planed it, He drove the nails into it, and the joyous refrain that would be repeated again and again in the generations to come was already the song in His heart: "Faithful Cross, O tree all beautiful, / Tree all peerless and divine: / Not a grove on earth can show us / Such a leaf and flower as thine. / Sweet the nails and sweet the wood, / Laden with so sweet a load." He accepted the cross in Nazareth, making the daily life of every worker His own; giving to the hardships, the monotony and the labours of countless hidden lives the power to redeem; restoring manual labour to the dignity of creative work, transforming it from being a punishment for sin, and only that, to a contemplation of God in which the worker could know something of the joy of the Creator in making that which he had conceived within himself.

Prayer from Iona Abbey, Scotland

+O Christ, the Master Carpenter, who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench may here be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand. We ask it for your own name's sake. Amen.

Lent 2024

The Carpenter's Cross: Making, Building, Repairing

KinderLent 4:00 p.m. (children 10 and under)

Meal served at 5:30 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Services begin at 7:00 p.m.

February 14-Ash Wednesday Soups and Chili	<i>Greenwood, Drywood, & Heartwood</i>
February 21 Sandwiches	<i>The Carpenter Branch</i>
February 28 Spaghetti	<i>A Carpenter's Yoke</i>
March 6 Tacos	<i>A Carpenter's Plow</i>
March 13 Pizza	<i>A Carpenter's Door</i>
March 20 Breakfast for dinner	<i>A Carpenter's Stone</i>

Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries and Society of St. Andrew are located at each entrance.

If you need a large print copy of the LHM please let the office know.

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: jkurz@blchurch.com

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

Office Manager

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

csmith@blchurch.com

Congregation Life Facilitator

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

rholland@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

thillsman@blchurch.com

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, 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.