



Ash Wednesday Service

February 17, 2021

Faith Lutheran Church
3501 E. highland Rd., Highland, MI 48356 (248)887-5550
Church E-mail --- office@fiathhighland.com Website --- faithhighland.com

A Call to Return

Through the words of the prophet Joel, God called to His people and commanded that they turn from their sinful ways and return to Him for His grace and blessings. The images the prophet uses are vivid and disturbing. The situation of God's people is desperate and needs immediate attention. This is a time for listening and responding to the call to return to faithfulness to the God who has ever been faithful to His people. "Return to the Lord, your God" is more than a verse sung as part of the liturgy. It is a heartfelt directive for our lives as together we follow the pathway of Lent.

Our Lords Supper Pledge

I am a baptized Christian. I have been instructed in the Lutheran Faith. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior. I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament and that I receive with the bread and wine, the true Body and Blood of Christ. I believe that thereby my faith is strengthened and renewed to dedicate my life to the service of the Lord, by regular worship, sacrificial giving and thankful living.

Those who have not yet been instructed or have questions about our communion practice are asked to speak with Pastor or an Elder. Such individuals are invited to come to the altar during communion to receive a blessing. Signify this by crossing your arms over your chest.

Stand

Ash Wednesday Address

- P** In the prophet Joel we read, "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." Lent is a season during which the whole church is encouraged to assess our faithfulness to the Lord Jesus, to recognize where we have fallen short, to repent of our sins, and to return to the Lord through the Means of Grace.

In the Holy Scriptures, ashes symbolize repentance. On this occasion, ashes mark our foreheads as a reminder that "we are dust and to dust we shall

return." These ashes are in the shape of a cross, as a reminder that through the cross of Christ our sins are forgiven. Marked with the sign of our humanity and our redemption in Christ, we are called to daily die to sin and be raised to new life with Christ. The new life in Christ is marked by the fruit of the Spirit as a way of life to which we now aspire by the grace of God. So, "return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13).

Silence for reflection.

P Return to the Lord your God,

C **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

P From seeking after other gods,

C **we return to You, O Lord.**

P From misusing Your name,

C **we return to You, O Lord.**

P From forgetting to call upon You in every trouble and from faltering in prayer,

C **we return to You, O Lord.**

P From faltering in worship and not always hearing and learning Your Word gladly,

C **we return to You, O Lord.**

P From disrespecting the authorities You have placed in our lives,

C **we return to You, O Lord.**

P From disregard for our neighbor's well-being,

C **we return to You, O Lord.**

P From failing to nurture the most important relationships in our lives,

C **we return to You, O Lord.**

- P** From our lack of complete honesty toward one another and our failure to help our neighbors improve their possession and income,
C **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** From speaking hurtful words about others and failing to explain our neighbors' actions in the kindest way,
C **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** From covetous thoughts and actions,
C **we return to You, O Lord.**
- P** To Your gracious Word of love for us in Christ,
C **we return.**
- P** To our identity as children of God, baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
C **we return.**
- P** To Christ's body and blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins,
C **we return.**
- P** Return to the Lord your God,
C **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**
- P** Steadfast Lord, You remain a solid foundational rock, even when we are shaky and weak. We thank and praise You for Your gracious invitation to return to You, not only during this Lenten season, but day by day. We are prone to wander. Yet Your love for us never wavers, and You constantly call us to return to You. Bless our Lenten journey. Let it be for us a time of daily returning to You, that we may be Your own and live under You in Your kingdom and serve You in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

If you or your children desire to receive ashes, please use the center aisle to come forward as you are ready, respecting the social space of other households. Pastor will place the ashes on the forehead of each participant in the sign of the cross, saying:

P Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his or her place via the side aisle.

419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

Sung during imposition



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



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



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



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



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. Holy and gracious God,

C **we confess our sin to You.**

P We cannot overcome our own sinful nature. Our desiring, our thinking, our acting, and our speaking—all goods gifts that You provide through Your good creation—we have warped and turned into instruments of sin.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P We have not loved You with our whole heart, soul, body, mind, and strength. We have neglected the needs of our neighbors—both those closest to us and strangers alike.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P For the times when our faith has wavered, for moments of arrogance, for petty jealousies, and for the small and big ways we have sought revenge.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P For placing our own personal needs over the needs of our community and over the needs of other people in our lives.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P For the times that our hearts have turned away from worshipping You.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P For the times when we have not prayed as regularly and trustingly as we should.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P For the times when we have shrunk away from opportunities to give witness to Your grace to us in Christ Jesus.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P For the times when we have displayed bad attitudes toward those who struggle in life, imagining that we deserve better than they do.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P For seeking comfort for ourselves and not being as concerned about those who suffer injustice.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P For explaining our neighbors' actions in unkind ways. For using our words as weapons against others. For standing in judgment over those who most need to hear a word of grace.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P For the times when we have been careless toward this beautiful world that You created for us to live in.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P For all of the other sins, those of which we are aware and those to which we remain blind, we plead with You to forgive us and to fill us with the power of the Spirit to amend our lives.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P Because of Jesus' paying the price for our sins on the cross, God readily forgives all who return to Him in repentance and faith. "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:11–14).

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Kyrie

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

- P** Let us pray.
O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Old Testament Reading: Joel 2:12–19

- P** The Old Testament Reading for Ash Wednesday is from Joel, the second chapter.
¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and 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.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between 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?'"

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,
"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.**

Psalm 51:1-13

P¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

C according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

P² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

C and cleanse me from my sin!

P³ For I know my transgressions,

C and my sin is ever before me.

P⁴ 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.

P⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

C and in sin did my mother conceive me.

P⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

C and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

P⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

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

P⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;

C let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

P⁹ Hide your face from my sins,

C and blot out all my iniquities.

P¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C and renew a right spirit within me.

P¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,

C and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

P¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

C and uphold me with a willing spirit.

P¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

C and sinners will return to you.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

P The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, the fifth and sixth chapters.

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as 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.**

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.**

¹[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.

²“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. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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. . . .

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that 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.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C **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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Break Your Hearts



1 Break your hearts with mourn-ing And your pride in two,
2 See your Sav - ior dy - ing, Hung up - on the tree.
3 Gath - er all in num - ber From both far and near;



Ash and grief a - dorn-ing Your re - pen-tance true.
It is vain de - ny - ing What is plain to see:
E - ven those in slum-ber Wait for trum-pets clear.



With your tears and fast - ing, From your God dis - cern
While His heart is break - ing, Still your God will earn
When the Lord grants bless - ing, Bro - ken hearts will learn



His ways ev - er - last - ing: To your Lord re - turn.
Free - dom in the mak - ing. To your Lord re - turn.
Joy be - yond ex - press - ing; To your Lord re - turn.

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Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the 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.**

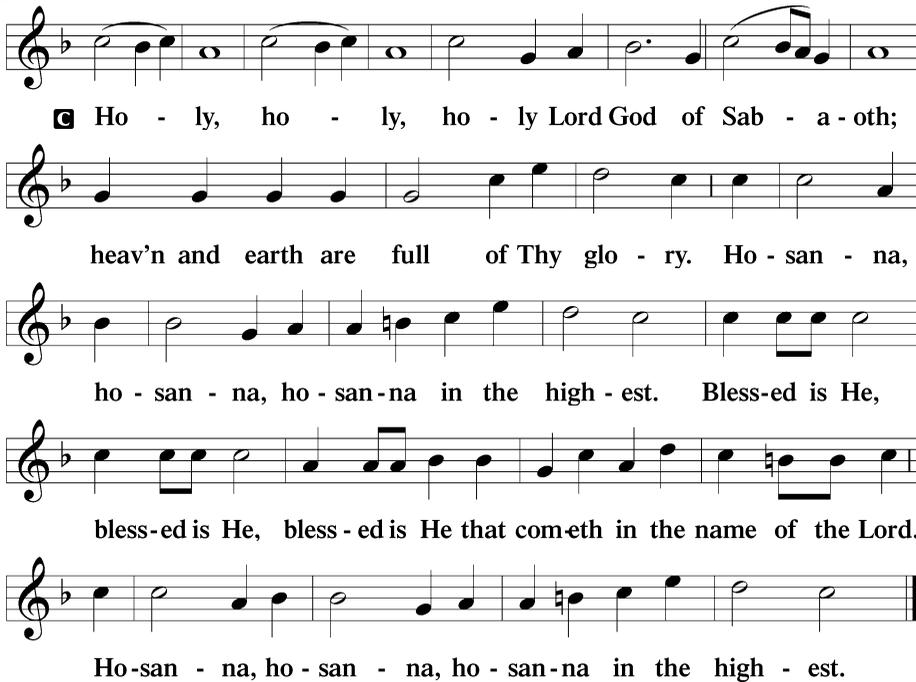
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary 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 paschal 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

LSB 195



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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Thanks and praise we give to You, O Lord, for returning to Your people again and again in mercy. When Adam and Eve walked away, You came to them with the promise of a Savior. When the world forgot Your ways, You saved Noah and his family in the flood. When the Israelites complained in the wilderness, still You provided manna and quail. When so many of the kings were unfaithful, You sustained a faithful remnant. At just the right time, You sent Jesus, Your only-begotten Son, to suffer, die, and be raised, so that the whole world might return to You.

On this Ash Wednesday marked by repentance, we return to You, O God, and praise You that Your mercy never fails, that You forgive not seven times but seventy times seven, that Jesus came to save not the righteous, but sinners. 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.**

Lord's Prayer

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

C **Our Father who art in heaven,**

hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

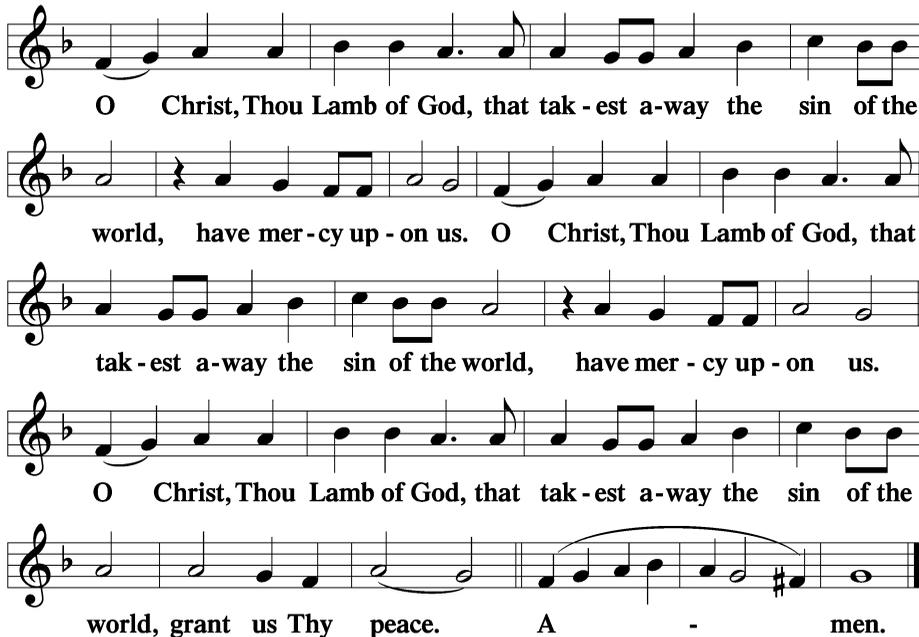
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P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Sit

Distribution

616 Baptismal Waters Cover Me



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
4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



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
speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now
hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



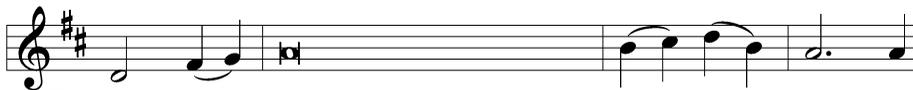
here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.
form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.
stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Post-Communion Collect

- A** 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.

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.

610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

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Thank you for worshipping with us. Please consider joining us again!

Sundays

Services are at **8:30** and **11:00 a.m.**

Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School at **9:45 a.m.**

Wednesday Lenten Schedule: Dinner at **5:30** Worship at **7:00 p.m.**

Midweek Lent 1

"Return to Prayer"

Midweek Lent 2

"Return from Betrayal"

Midweek Lent 3

"Return from False Witness"

Midweek Lent 4

"Return from Denial"

Midweek Lent 5

"Return from the Kingdom of God"

Holy Thursday

"Return to the Table"

Good Friday

"Return to the Truth"

Easter Sunday

"Return and See"

As in the past we are making available **daily devotions** to guide and accompany your family through this year's Lenten theme, *Return to the Lord*. Devotion books are available on the table as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

This year we also have **Lenten Calendars** that go along with the devotionals. Much like an advent calendar, these work particularly well with younger disciples of Jesus. If you have children around during the week, these are a great way to include them in Lenten preparations. Take one to share!