

The First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2018



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Canada

322 East Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 1Z5 (519)742-5812 www.holycrosskitchener.org

The First Sunday in Lent

8:30 & 11:00 am - Holy Communion Services

9:45 am - Sunday School & Bible Classes for All Ages

2:00 pm - Nuer Language Service

6:30 pm - Adult Instruction Class

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn

A Mighty Fortress is Our God *LSB #657*

Invocation & Confession and Absolution

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

People **Amen.**

Pastor If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People **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.

Pastor Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People **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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray, O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 22:1-18

¹ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-10

Pastor The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear Him,
and He makes known to them His covenant.

- Men* To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- Women* **O my God, in You I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.**
- Men* Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- Women* **Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;
teach me Your paths.**
- Men* Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
for You are the God of my salvation;
for You I wait all the day long.
- Women* **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**
- Men* Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to Your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!
- Women* **Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.**
- Men* He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble His way.
- Women* **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**
- People* **The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear Him,
and He makes known to them His covenant.**

Epistle Reading: James 1:12-18

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

- Pastor* This is the Word of the Lord.
- People* **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: St. Mark 1:9-15*Pastor* The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.*People* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." ¹² The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.*People* **Praise to You, O Christ.****Hymn Of The Day****O Steadfast Lord, Prepare Our Path**

**O steadfast Lord, prepare our path That we may never stray
Into the wasteland of Your wrath But tread the narrow way.**

**Lord, when temptations whisper lies And lure us from Your side,
Preserve us from the devil's guise And shine Your Word to guide.**

**Lord God, You gave Your only Son To walk our earthen road,
For only He could be the one To bear our sinful load.**

**Lord, where we falter in this life And fail to do Your will,
Point us to Jesus' pain and strife On Calv'ry's bloody hill.**

**Just as our Savior led the way And bore Your righteous wrath,
He still leads on and will not stray To blaze salvation's path.**

Sermon**Psalm 25:8-15****"BLESSING THE BEGGARS"**

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

⁹ He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

¹⁰ All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

¹¹ For the sake of your name, LORD,
forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

¹² Who, then, are those who fear the LORD?
He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.^[a]

¹³ They will spend their days in prosperity,
and their descendants will inherit the land.

¹⁴ The LORD confides in those who fear him;
he makes his covenant known to them.

¹⁵ My eyes are ever on the LORD,
for only he will release my feet from the snare.

Nicene Creed

All 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

Parish Announcements and Gathering of Offering

Service of Holy Communion

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor 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



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,



bles - ed is He, bles - 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.

Words of Our Lord

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

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

Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People **Amen.**

Agnus Dei



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.

Distribution Hymns

Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word *LSB #655*
Christ Be My Leader *LSB #861*

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Pastor 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.

People **Amen.**

Benediction

Pastor 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.

People **Amen.**

Hymn

The Lamb *LSB #547*

- Preacher..... Pastor Nolan Astley
- Officiant..... Pastor Roland Syens
- Communion Assistants..... Pastor Robert Morley (8:30),
 Pastor Pastors William Chuol, Gary Weber (11:00)
- Organist..... Jennifer Massicotte
- Special Music..... Gabrielle George (*piano*)
- Youth Ladies..... Gabrielle George, Kassi Griffin, Eden Keller, Payton Wentzlaff,
 Brigitte Bridgemohan (*violin*), Gabrielle George (*viola*), Kaitlyn Neustaedter (*piano*)
- Acolyte..... Katja Teich (8:30), Cole Tiegs (11:00)

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Flowers: in the church remain following the funeral this past week of Clara Schmidt, from the family.

Prayer Concerns: In our prayers today we remember the **families of Clara Schmidt, Horst Lutsche, and John Gabel** who have all been called from this life to be with the Lord in recent days. May God grant his comfort and peace to these families and all others who mourn! As Lent is a time when we focus on teaching the faith, **we remember those in our Adult Instruction Class and in our junior and Senior confirmation classes** asking God to bless their instruction. And on this family day weekend we ask God to **bless our families** and make them to be workshops of His Holy Spirit.

Adult Information Class #5 tonight **from 6:30-8:30 pm** is 'About a Washing Which Cleanses You'. If you are interested in joining our church or simply looking to review what we believe, please join us.

Our DPS intern Lenora Wallden is away enjoying some family time. She will be back to the office on Wednesday afternoon.

Today's Education Hour...

March Munchies - Mission project! We will collect cereal boxes in the month of March to give to our neighbours in need at Historic St. Paul's Community Cupboard.

Sing with us! All Sunday School students are invited to share the gift of music at Late service on **Sunday, March 4**. We are practicing at Openings.

YABS this Sunday, Mel will lead the YABS discussion. Join us at 9:45 a.m. in the conference room.

Adult Bible Class Narrow-mindedness can cause great pain. In Adult Bible Class today we will see how an incident of narrow-minded thinking became an occasion for St. Paul to write powerfully to the church about the unity we have in Christ which is lived out as we welcome people of all nations to God's family. Grab a coffee and join us for some reflection on Ephesians 2:11-22.

Coming Events...

Prime Timers meets again this **Thursday, February 22**. If you can join us the sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Centre desk. Hope to see you there!

Confirmation/Youth Retreat February 23-25 in Fisherville. Registration forms are on the Youth bulletin board. See Lenora to return forms or ask questions.

Pizza & Playtime for families of age 3 children to Grade 2. Next **Sunday, February 25** we will meet immediately after Late service to pray, eat & play until 2:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Henri by noon on February 24 with pizza topping preferences!

Eat & Bowl for Grades 3 – 7 Sunday School students & their families. Join us **Sunday, March 4** at Towne Bowl on Ottawa Street after late service. RSVP to Henri by **March 1**. Please bring \$2/person to help with cost of pizza & shoe rental.

Sign Up for Easter Plants if you're willing to donate a hydrangea or lily to beautify our altar for Christ's Resurrection Day in April. Posters are on bulletin boards around the building. If you want to designate yours as a memorial or thankoffering you still need to sign up on the posted lists, but pick up a form at the Welcome Centre, fill it in, and drop it off in the box outside the church office. The deadline is **Sunday, March 4**.

Young Adult Brunch on **Easter Saturday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.** Mark your calendars - more details to come. Hope to see many of you there!

Please Note...

Our new organ is complete! We will be closing the Organ Fund as of **March 1, 2018** and will no longer receive financial gifts to this initiative. We praise God for the gift of our new pipe organ and thank our members for the wonderful support provided to this project.

Lenten Devotion Booklets are available at the Welcome Centre. Please help yourself.

Last Week at Holy Cross...

Sunday Attendance:	86 & 191	Total 277	('17 – 298)
Sunday School:	Pupils: 26 Staff: 13	Total 39	('17 – 48)
Adult Bible Class:	Pupils: 45 Staff: 1	Total 46	('17 – 64)
YABS:	Pupils: 7 Staff: 4	Total 11	('17 – 7)
Youth Bible Class:	Pupils: 11 Staff: 1	Total 12	('17 – 9)

Thankoffering: In honour of **JOYCE KEHN's** 85th Birthday Church Choir from Brian & Leslie Ann Webb.

Memorials: In memory of **CLARA SCHMIDT** to the Unified Church Budget from Shirley Martin, Pastor Lloyd & Shirley Wentzlaff, Bruce & Norene Brubacher, Cliff & Shirley Swartz-Hill, Larry Woolner, Arnold & Cheri Drung & Family. To the Organ Fund from Lydia Weimer. To Missions from Gerry & Ila Wentzlaff, Bob & Jean Schmitt. In memory of **BEATRICE SCHIEMANN** to the Lutheran Hour from Pastor Lloyd & Shirley Wentzlaff, Marlene Lemon. In memory of **IRENE SCHARLACH** to the Organ Fund from Peter & Sandra Rueffer, Dave & Judy Lloyd. To the Church Choir from Florence Ringwald. In memory of **ALBERT KELLER** to Missions from Martha Schaus, Arnold & Cheri Drung & Family. To the Organ Fund from Dave & Judy Lloyd. In memory of **RUTH SWARTZ** to the Unified Church Budget from Sherry Swartz-Hill.

Weekly Calendar

Monday February 19 to Sunday February 25, 2018

Monday	Family Day, <i>Church Office Closed</i> Griefshare Seminar, <i>Confirmation Classroom, Panel Room</i>6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i>6:30 p.m. Board of Stewardship, <i>Church Library</i>7:00 p.m. Women's Renewal Committee, <i>Panel Room</i>7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Knotty Ladies, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>9:00 a.m. Lenten Service , <i>Church</i> 1:30 p.m. LINC, <i>Everywhere</i>5:30 p.m. Junior Confirmation, <i>Panel Room</i>6:00 p.m. Senior Confirmation, <i>Church Library</i>6:00 p.m. Lenten Service , <i>Church</i> 7:00 p.m. Board of Worship, <i>Conference Room</i>8:00 p.m.
Thursday	Beginnings, <i>Downstairs</i>9:30 a.m. Prayer Group, <i>Church Library</i>9:30 a.m. Prime Timers, <i>Downstairs</i>1:30 p.m. Praise Singers, <i>Church</i>7:00 p.m. Church Choir, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>7:30 p.m.
Friday - Sunday	Confirmand Retreat, <i>Trinity Lutheran, Fisherville</i>
Friday	'This House', <i>Parlour</i>7:00 p.m.
Saturday	Nuer Bible Study, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>2:00 p.m. Nuer Youth time, <i>Gym</i>2:00 p.m.
Sunday	The Second Sunday in Lent Divine Service , <i>Church</i> 8:30 a.m. Sunday School, <i>Church</i>9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class, <i>Church</i>9:45 a.m. YABS, <i>Conference Room</i>9:45 a.m. Youth Bible Class, <i>Youth Centre</i>9:45 a.m. Divine Service , <i>Church</i> 11:00 a.m. Pizza & Gym Time, <i>Downstairs</i>12:30 p.m. Nuer Language Service with Holy Communion , <i>Church</i> 2:00 p.m. Adult Instruction Class, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>6:30 p.m.

PASSIONATE PSALMS

Lenten Worship Services Every Wednesday
from February 14 to March 21, 2018 at 1:30 or 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, February 14

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

• Psalm 51 •

Lent Wednesday 2, February 21

BUT YOU O LORD RAISE ME UP

• Psalm 41 •

Lent Wednesday 3, February 28

MY SOUL CLINGS TO YOU

• Psalm 63 •

Lent Wednesday 4, March 7

PEACE BE WITHIN YOUR WALLS

• Psalm 122 •

Lent Wednesday 5, March 14

HOW LONG O LORD?

• Psalm 89 •

Lent Wednesday 6, March 21

REPROBATES HAVE BROKEN MY HEART

• Psalm 69 •