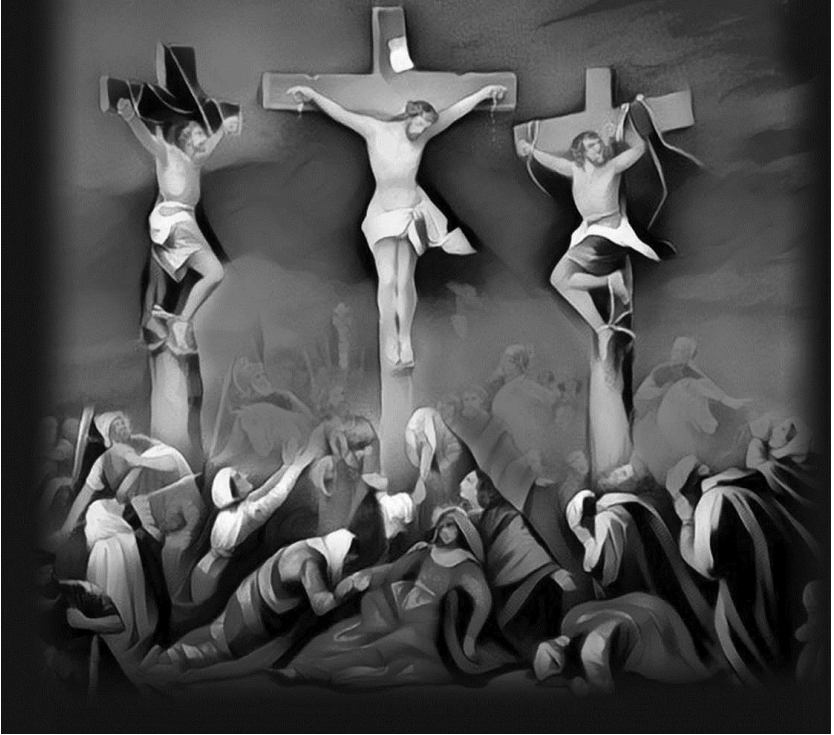


# WITNESSES TO CHRIST



Ash Wednesday  
March 2, 2022  
7 p.m.

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church  
Brillion, WI

## Welcome

### On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*LSB 344 vs. 1-3*

#### Invocation

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

#### Opening Sentences

- P** Today we begin our Lenten journey, recognizing the witnesses who point us to Christ,  
**C** **testifying to His words and actions for us.**  
**P** John the Baptist directs us to Jesus, proclaiming:  
**C** **“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”**

#### Confession and Absolution

- P** John's words remind us that we need forgiveness. We cannot escape our sin, guilt, or shame on our own. Though we may try to hide our sin, our heavenly Father knows all things. He invites us to turn to Him so that our sin, guilt, and shame might be taken away. Together we confess:  
**C** **Lord, we come before You filled with regrets of things we should not have done, words we wish we could take back, and thoughts we cannot bear to remember. Our sins have infected our relationships with others and our relationship with You, Lord. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so the joy of Your salvation might be restored to us.**
- P** John's words remind us that forgiveness comes to us from Jesus. Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world by His death and resurrection. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, the Lamb of God, 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.  
**C** **Amen. Behold, we are forgiven by Christ!**

## Imposition of Ashes

**P** We are indeed forgiven in Christ. Still, in this world, we suffer the wages of sin, which is death. We endure pain, disease, and grief. Today we receive the mark of the cross upon us in the form of ashes. These ashes remind us that we are merely dust and ashes, that when we die, our bodies will return to dust and ashes. But the sign of the cross reminds us that dust and ashes are not the end for us. When Jesus returns, He will raise us from the dead, and we will live forever with Him in the new creation.

**C** Amen. We will be free from sin, death, and Satan when Jesus returns.

*(The imposition of ashes was a custom in the early Church. The ashes are placed on the forehead or the back of the hand to remind us of our sinfulness and mortality, but in the shape of a cross to remind us of God's love and forgiveness in Jesus. You will be ushered up but don't feel compelled to come forward. This is strictly optional.)*

## Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419

### Kyrie

**P** Lord, have mercy.

**C** Christ, have mercy.

**P** Lord, have mercy.

## On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422

1 On my heart imprint Your image, Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to be the Lamb of

God, who takes away the sin of the world. Embolden us to follow Him on the journey to the cross, learning as we go from those witnesses who point us to Jesus, our forgiveness and life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **Psalm of the Day**

*Psalm 51:1–12*

- P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- C Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**
- P** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- C 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.**
- P** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- C Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**
- P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- C Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**
- P** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**
- P** Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
- C Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
- C as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **Old Testament Reading**

*Joel 2:12–19*

<sup>12</sup>“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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?’” <sup>18</sup>Then the LORD became jealous for His land and had pity on His people. <sup>19</sup>The 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.

## Epistle

*2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

<sup>20b</sup>We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

<sup>21</sup>For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>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.

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:29–34*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

<sup>29</sup>The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

<sup>30</sup>“This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup>And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him.

<sup>33</sup>I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

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

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

## Mini Message

**“Behold! The Lamb of God,” John Said** *(Tune: LSB 432)*

*(Cong.)* 1 “Behold! The Lamb of God,” John said,

“Who takes all sin away.”

This Lamb is Christ, who in our stead

For sin would mutely pay.

“Behold your King!” by Pilate scourged;

Sin’s hellish sum on Him converged,

While “Crucify!” the hateful urged,

Their Savior to betray.

(*Choir*) 2 The Way—of justice was deprived;  
The Truth—was overrun;  
The Life—was all from Christ derived;  
God glorifies His Son!  
“I am the Bread of Life,” Christ said;  
“My sacred blood for all, I shed;  
Who eats and drinks of Me is fed.”  
All death by Christ undone.

3 (*Men*) Christ’s glory is not seen by those  
Who view God’s Word as dross,  
(*Women*) For worldly wisdom never knows  
How gain could come from loss.  
(*Men*) Yet, this the glory of the Christ:  
His perfect life He sacrificed,  
(*Women*) His finished work for all sufficed—  
Debt canceled on the cross.

(*Cong.*) 4 May we this holy Lententide  
Christ’s Passion clearly see;  
This somber vision will provide  
The truth that sets us free.  
Hear John, who speaks of what he knows;  
Come, follow on the path Christ chose:  
The cross, the tomb from which He rose  
In joyous victory!

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## Sermon

### 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 of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

## **Offering & Rite of Friendship**

**Service of the Sacrament**

*LSB 160*

**O Lord, We Praise Thee**

*LSB 617*

**Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing**

*LSB 421*

**O Christ, You Walked the Road**

*LSB 424*