

## Mutual Consideration

### Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

*Dale Scheiderer – Organist*

#### AS WE GATHER

How close is your relationship with Jesus? According to Paul, “All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death,” and “if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His” (Romans 6:3, 5). Your Baptism has brought you so close to Jesus that you share death, life, and all things with Him. Therefore, when David said of Jesus in Psalm 41:1, “Blessed is the one who considers the poor,” he was also speaking of you. Your blessed Lord Jesus considers you—a poor, miserable sinner—and He will surely deliver you in the day of trouble so that you, too, will be “called blessed in the land” (Psalm 41:2).

#### + IMPOSITION OF ASHES +

- P** Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

*Silence for reflection*

- P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we

may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*As the ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says,  
"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

### **MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES**

*by Jon Lutz, "Just As I Am"*

**P** Almighty God, we beseech You to grant us true repentance and Your Holy Spirit, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy and that at the last we may come to Your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**P** Go in peace. You are free.

**C Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN**

**"Savior, When in Dust to Thee"**

*LSB 419*

**+ PREPARATION +**

### **INVOCATION**

### **OPENING SENTENCES**

*Psalm 145:1–2, 8–9*

**P** I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.

**C Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.**

**P** The LORD is gracious and merciful,

**C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**P** The LORD is good to all,

**C and His mercy is over all that He has made.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** Let us confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection on the Word of God and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins in thought, word, and deed with which I have offended You. By nature, I am sinful and unclean. Time and again I have not honored Your name or walked in Your ways. Although I justly deserve Your punishment in time and for eternity, I am truly sorry for my transgressions and sincerely repent of them. In Your great mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, forgive me all my sins, and by the directing of the Holy Spirit, lead me to walk in paths of blessedness.**

**P** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

## HYMN INTRODUCTION

### HYMN

#### “My Song Is Love Unknown”

LSB 430:1

My song is love unknown, my Savior’s love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

### 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.

### PSALM

Psalm 41

**P** Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

**C** In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

**P** the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

**C** You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

**P** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.

**C** As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!”

**P** My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”

**C** And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

**P** All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

**C** They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”

**P** Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

**C** But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

**P** By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

**C** But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.  
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.  
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.

### EPISTLE READING

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>6:1</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.

## HYMN

### “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB 422

On my heart imprint Your image, blessed 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!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt. Text: Public domain

## 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.

<sup>1</sup>[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. <sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>But 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. . . . <sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>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

### “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

LSB 418

SERMON: “MUTUAL CONSIDERATION” - *Psalms 41:1–2*

## 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**

**P** . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY OFFERING**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

## **PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION** *(as found on page 6 of this worship program)*

### **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**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

### **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

### **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.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 PEACE OF THE LORD**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### **DISTRIBUTION**

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"**

*LSB 618*

**"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"**

*LSB 915*

**"Your Table I Approach"**

*LSB 628*

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

### **CLOSING COLLECT**

### **BENEDICTION**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

**"Go to Dark Gethsemane"**

*LSB 436*

## PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

*Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:27-29*

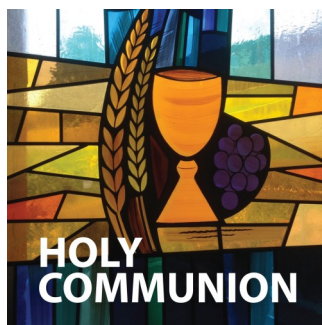
**The following is a summary of what we believe and teach as Missouri Synod Lutheran Christians. Because we care for you, we ask that you carefully review the following statements:**

1. I have been baptized into the name of the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:16-20*
2. I have been instructed concerning the meaning of Holy Communion, understand the importance of self-examination prior to coming to the Lord's Supper and have made my confirmation of faith. *1 Corinthians 11:27-29*
3. I confess that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness. I am sorry for my sins. *1 John 1:8-9*
4. I believe that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. *Romans 3:21-24*
5. I believe that the body and blood of Jesus Christ are really present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and I desire to receive Christ's body and blood, given and shed for my forgiveness. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*
6. If possible, so far as it depends on me, I seek to live peaceably with all. *Romans 12:17-19*
7. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I desire and intend to lead a more Godly and Christ-like life, trusting in God's promises and obeying His commands. *Galatians 5:22-24*

*If you unreservedly agree with the seven points above, you are invited to come to the Lord's Supper. If you do not agree with one or more of the seven points, please refrain from participating in Holy Communion lest you sin against the body and blood of the Lord. If you agree with the seven points above but are not a member of St. John's, we welcome you to the Lord's Table and invite you to give prayerful consideration to joining our partnership in the Gospel. You are encouraged to speak with a pastor or elder prior to communing regarding any point(s) of disagreement and/or regarding the process of joining St. John's.*

**Gluten-Free Communion Wafers:** A gluten-free communion wafer option is now available for those who are allergic. They are located in the brass cup in the middle of the communion plate.

**Communion Wine:** For those who have health related, or other issues with drinking alcohol, please take the purple individual communion cup. It contains all water with one drop of wine.



**St. John's Lutheran Church  
2024 Lenten & Holy Week Worship Service  
Schedule and Activities**



**Lenten Worship Services**

**Ash Wednesday Services:** *February 14*

4:00 & 7:00 pm with Communion and  
Distribution of Ashes

**Ash Wednesday Supper:** 5:00-7:00 pm in the School  
Cafeteria/Gym

**Midweek Lenten Services:** *February 21 & 28;  
March 6, 13, and 20; 4:00 pm*

**Midweek Lenten Suppers:** *Wednesdays, February 21-  
March 20, 5:00-6:30 pm in the School Cafeteria/Gym*

**Midweek Lenten Bible Study:** *Wednesdays,  
February 21-March 20: "Be Gracious to Me", weekly Bible  
study, led by Pastor Jack, 6:30 pm in the Heritage House.*



**Holy Week Worship Services**

**March 24-March 30**

**Palm Sunday Services:** *March 24*

9:00 am: 2024 Youth Rite of Confirmation - Sanctuary  
11:00 am: Contemporary - Gym

**Maundy Thursday Service:** *March 28*

7:00 pm Worship & 1st Holy Communion for 2024 Youth  
Confirmands

**Good Friday:** *March 29*

Tenebrae Service: "Service of Darkness", 7:00 pm  
Prayer Vigil: Starts at 8:00 pm - Marie Pfarr Room

**Holy Saturday Service:** *March 30*

6:00 pm with Communion

**Easter Sunday Services:** *March 31*

9:00 & 11:00 am with Communion

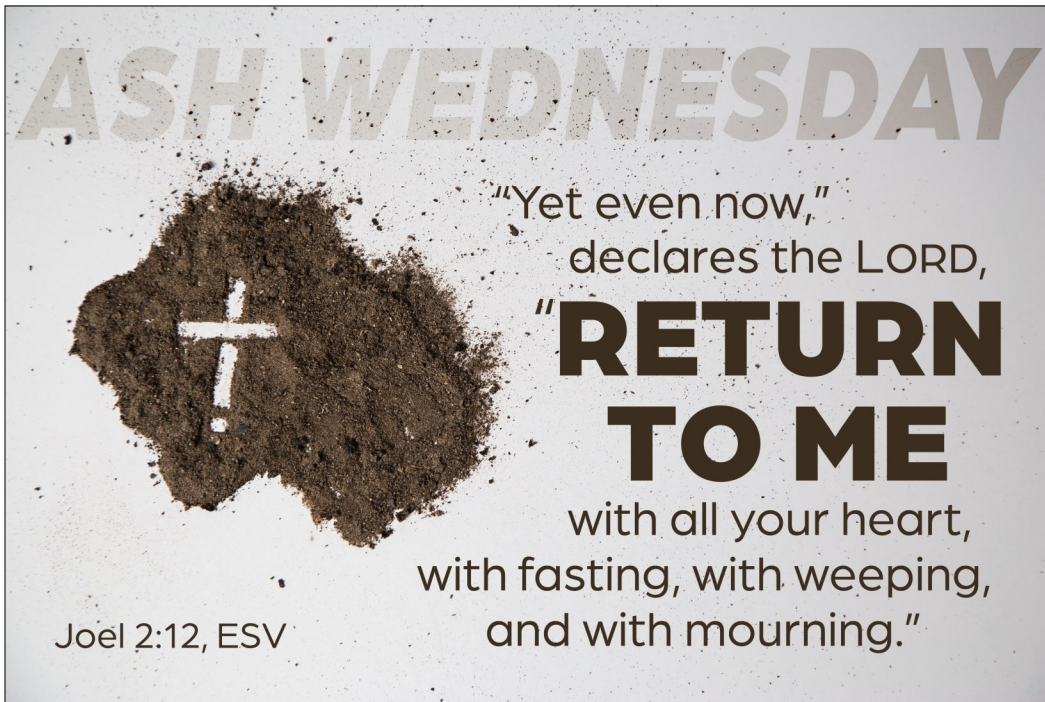
***No Sunday School Classes, but please attend:***

10:00 am: Easter Egg Hunt for All Ages up to 6th Grade  
(Meet on the softball field)

10:15 am: Our Family Easter Breakfast  
hosted by the Cafeteria Bible Study Group

**Please Join Us — All Are Welcome!**





**St. John's Lutheran Church and School**

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Mr. Rich Rausch, Principal 937-240-3003

*Equipping the family of God to joyfully and boldly make disciples of Christ as we  
**KNOW** Jesus and one another, **GROW** to be more  
like Him and **SOW** His love in Word and deed.*

