

**Second Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 <sup>5:20</sup>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>6:1</sup>As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. <sup>4</sup>Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; <sup>5</sup>in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; <sup>6</sup>in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; <sup>7</sup>in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; <sup>8</sup>through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; <sup>9</sup>known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *"Tree Of Life"* (stand as you are able)

**Verse 1: Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry, in your death we are reborn;  
though you die in all of hist'ry, still you rise with ev'ry morn, still you rise with ev'ry morn.**

**Verse 2: We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word;  
ev'ry person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord, wears the body of our Lord.**

**Verse 3: Christ, you lead and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be;  
one with you in joy and sorrow, we the river, you the sea, we the river, you the sea.**

**General Verse: Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of our Lord; give new strength to our believing,  
give us faith to live your word, give us faith to live your word**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 18:9-14** <sup>9</sup>To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup>"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' <sup>13</sup>"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' <sup>14</sup>"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

P: The word of the Lord     **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Homily:** Pastor Eric Hanson

**Hymn of the Day:** *"Jesus Loves Me!"* #595 (you may be seated)

*Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you'd like to sign up for online giving please visit <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving.html>. Children's coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.*

**Vs 1: Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.**

**Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Vs 2: Jesus loves me he who died heaven's gate to open wide.  
He will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. [Refrain]**

**Vs 3: Jesus loves me, he will stay close beside me all the way;  
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. [Refrain]**

**Offertory Response:** *"Give Thanks"*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong".  
Let the poor say, "I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us". Give thanks.**

**Offertory Prayer:**

P: Let us pray.

**C: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Invitation to Lent:**

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

**Confession of Sin** (Please stand as you are able)

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God & of one another.     *Silence is kept for reflection & self-examination.*

P: Most holy and merciful God,

**C: we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.     **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.     **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.     **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, & our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Restore us, O God, & let your anger depart from us.     **C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

**Imposition of Ashes & Hymns:**

*All are invited to receive the imposition of ashes, a physical mark of our penitence before God.*

*Ashes will be received as ushers invite rows forward from the back of the sanctuary to the front.*

*"Remember That You Are Dust"*     **2X**

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

*"Jesus Remember Me"*     **#616     2X**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

**The Prayers:**

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, & all who are in need.  
*A brief silence.*

Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Encourage believers who hold the church's doors open to those who have felt excluded. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness, grief, or deployment; especially; Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Judy Carpenter, Larry Reese, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Jen Berg, Marilyn O'Brien, Kellie Peterson, Naomi Berland, Kay Kurtti, Donald & Marcy Jonas, Harold Lensch, and Shawn Frederixon. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace:** P: The peace of the Lord be with you always C: **And also with you**

**The Great Thanksgiving:** *(stand as you are able)*

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 & praise.**

#### Words of Institution

**Lord's Prayer:** 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.**

**Meal and Hymns:** *(congregation may be seated)*

*All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.*

*Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.*

*"This Is Christ's Body" 3X*

**This is Christ's body, broken and blest. Feed us with mercy and love. (with mercy and love.)**

**We are Christ's body, broken and blest. Heal us and make us one.**

*"Jesus, Name Above All Names"*

**Vs. 1: Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

**Vs. 2: Jesus, loving Shepherd, Vine of the branches, Son of God.  
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe, Light of the world.**

**Vs. 3: Jesus, way of salvation King of Kings, Lord of Lords.  
The Way, the truth, and the life Mighty Creator, My Savior and Friend.**

**Post Communion Prayer:** P: Let us pray.

**C: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Blessing:** *(stand as you are able)* P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, & Holy Spirit, bless you now & forever. C: **Amen**

**Dismissal:** P: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** *(The assembly leaves in silence)*

Ash  
Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust...*

*and to dust you shall return.*

~Ecclesiastes 3:20

## St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson February 22, 2023 • 6:45PM Ash Wednesday Worship

**Prelude** *(The assembly gathers in reflective silence.)*

Debbi St. John, Pianist/Organist

**Greeting:** *(Please stand as you are able)*

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day:** P: Let us Pray,

**C: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**First Reading** *(you may be seated):* Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near — <sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. <sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <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; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. <sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 51:1-17**

L: <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

C: <sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

L: <sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

C: <sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

L: <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

C: <sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

L: <sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

C: <sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

L: <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

C: <sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

L: <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C: <sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

L: <sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

C: <sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

L: <sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

C: <sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

L: <sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.