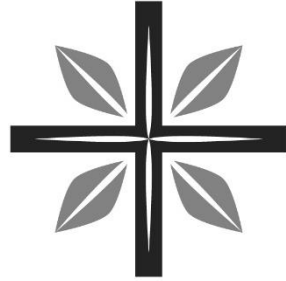


St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- Large print service folders, assisted listening devices, children's service folders and children's worship notes are available from the ushers.
- Parents may take small children into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed and follow the worship service on the TV monitor. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.
- As the offering is received, members and guests are asked to sign the Friendship Register. Please pass the register to your neighbor and then return it to the center aisle. Visitors are also asked to fill out a guest card and give it to an usher.
- The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in our worship today. Scripture tells us that the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in God's Word and a privilege reserved for those who have publicly confessed their oneness in faith. Therefore, we ask guests who are not members of WELS or ELS congregations to refrain from communion until such oneness can be established. We do not intend to be exclusive and unloving. Rather, we desire to faithfully carry out the teaching of Scripture and further explore God's Word with you in the hope that we may eventually enjoy such "communion fellowship" together. For more information, please speak with one of our pastors.

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

The Battle For Your Soul: Return to the LORD.

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

Christian Worship 108

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Instruction for the Beginning of Lent

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

DIALOGUE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

C: **according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

M: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

C: **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.**

M: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

C: **so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.**

M: Surely I was sinful at birth,

C: **sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

Psalm 51:1-5

M: Out of the depths we cry to the LORD and ask him to hear our voice. Therefore let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Please kneel

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

M: If the LORD kept a record of sins, who could stand? But with him there is forgiveness; therefore he is feared. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

Please stand

M: You, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations.

C: **You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come.**

M: For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory.

C: **He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.**

M: Let this be written for a future generation,

C: **that a people not yet created may praise the LORD:**

M: “The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth,

C: **to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death.”**

M: So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem,

C: **when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD.**

Psalm 102:12-13, 18-22

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.
Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Numbers 21:4-9

Those who repent and return to the LORD find healing.

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you

brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

Psalm of the Day

School small group choir (3:30 p.m.); Adult choir (6:45 p.m.)

Psalm 130

by Heinrich Schutz

From depths of woe I cry to thee. In trial and tribulation;
Bend down thy gracious ear to me, Lord, hear my supplication.
If thou rememb’rest ev’ry sin, who then could heaven ever win or stand before thy presence?

Thy love and grace alone avail to blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail to break sin’s dread oppression.
Before thee none can boasting stand, but all must fear thy strict demand and live alone by mercy.

Therefore my hope is in the Lord and not in mine own merit;
It rests upon his faithful Word to them of contrite spirit.
That he is merciful and just; this is my comfort and my trust. His help I wait with patience.

And though it tarry through the night and till the morning waken,
My heart shall never doubt his might nor count itself forsaken.
O Israel, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spirit and the Word, now wait for his appearing.

Though great our sins, yet greater still is God’s abundant favor;
His hand of mercy never will abandon us, nor waver.
Our shepherd good and true is he, who will at last his Israel free from all their sin and sorrow.

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 7:8-13a

Paul rejoices over those who have repented and returned to God.

Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it – I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while – yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret,

but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. By all this we are encouraged.

Verse of the Day

M: Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Please stand

Gospel

Luke 18:9-14

The tax collector repented and returned to God; the Pharisee did not.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

“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.’

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Be seated

Anthem (3:30 p.m.)

Junior Choir

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

arranged by Jacob B. Weber

On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures have no pow'r to hide your face.
This the superscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation.

Anthem (6:45 p.m.)

Adult Choir

Lamb of God

by Augustin Pflieger

O Lamb of God, pure and sinless, once on the cross an off ring,
Patient, lowly, guiltless, forsaken in your suff ring.
From sin's grasp you have torn us, from gloom to hope have borne us.
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus.

O Lamb of God, pure and sinless, once on the cross an off ring,
Patient, lowly, guiltless, forsaken in your suff ring.
From sin's grasp you have torn us, from gloom to hope have borne us.
Grant us your mercy, O Jesus.

O Lamb of God, pure and sinless, once on the cross an off ring,
Patient, lowly, guiltless, forsaken in your suff ring.
From sin's grasp you have torn us, from gloom to hope have borne us.
Your peace be with us, O Jesus.

Hymn of the Day

In Adam We Have All Been One

Christian Worship 396

Sermon

Numbers 21:4-9

Lenten Lessons From the Desert

Please stand

Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Offering

*The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work
in our community and around the world, and our offerings are
a joyful response of our faith. To submit your offering electronically,
scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/giving. If you are a visitor today,
you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.*



Please stand

Prayer of the Church for Ash Wednesday

M: Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that this nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

C: **Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.**

M: In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God's continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

Silent prayer

M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all your children for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

C: **We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C: **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your 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 who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution⁺

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

+ Words of Institution: In the Words of Institution, the pastor uses Christ’s own words to consecrate – set apart – the bread and wine. These words are not a magic formula that brings about a change in the elements. But because they are the words of Jesus put into the minister’s mouth, they still accomplish today what they accomplished on Maundy Thursday: effecting the real presence of Jesus’ body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

*To receive communion, please proceed down the center aisle and exit via the side aisles.
 Grape juice is available in the center of the individual cup tray for those unable to receive wine.
 Personal prayers for communion can be found on pg. 19 of the service folder.*

Distribution Hymns

Adult Choir

Kyrie (6:45 p.m.)

by Orlando di Lasso

Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy on us; Christ, have mercy on us; Lord, have mercy on us.

Baptismal Waters Cover Me (see pg. 16)

Christian Worship Supplement 739

Lord, to You I Make Confession

Christian Worship 302

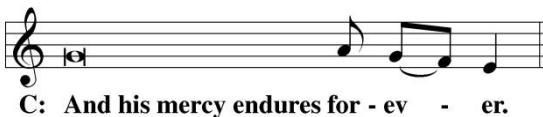
Please stand

THANKSGIVING



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: Lord God, as we begin another Lenten season, fix before our eyes the cross and our deep need for a Savior. Look with mercy on this your church and grant to us your Holy Spirit that our hearts may be contrite, our faith steadfast and immovable, and our hope built securely upon the willing sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

When O'er My Sins I Sorrow (stanzas 1 & 2)

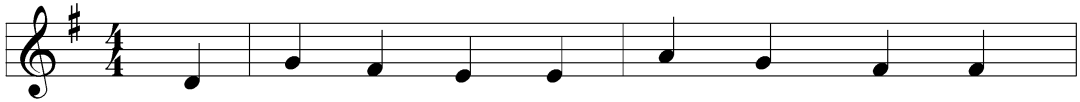
Christian Worship 109

Announcements

Postlude

If you do not wish to take your service folder home, please place it in the basket so it can be reused.

Baptismal Waters Cover Me



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As
 2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His
 3 Lord, may your wound - ed hand im - part Your
 4 From your own mouth comes forth a word; Your
 5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's



I ap - proach on bend - ed knee; My
 bod - y bro - ken there for me; I
 heal - ing to my bro - ken heart; Your
 Shep - herd speaks, but you are heard; Through
 wound - ed hand has set me free. Held



Fa - ther's mer - cy here I plead, For
 lay be - fore him all my sin, My
 love a - lone can form in me A
 him your hand now stretch - es out, For -
 in my Fa - ther's strong em - brace, With



griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
 dark - est se - crets from with - in.
 heart that serves you joy - ful - ly.
 giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
 joy I praise him for his grace.

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Presiding Minister	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Lector	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Musicians	Lynn Kozlowski, organ Rachel Wendland, piano (3:30 p.m.) Morgan Festerling, violin (3:30 p.m.) Hannah Braun & Rachel Wendland, violin (6:45 p.m.)
Junior Choir Director	Mandy Treder
Adult Choir Director	Dr. William Braun
Communion Assistants	Dave Leyrer, Keith Hackbarth, Brett Kriese (3:30 p.m.) Greg Martin, Adam Sipe, Jeff Scheibe (6:45 p.m.)
Head Usher	Michael Schneider
AV Operator	Jonah & Riley Rindfleisch

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Lenten Worship Opportunities

St. John's midweek Lenten services are held on **Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.**
Lenten fellowship meals will be served between services beginning at 4:30 p.m.

March 4 – Midweek Lent 2

Theme: Hidden Warrior
Preacher: Pastor Kyle Bitter
Menu: Sloppy joes

March 11 – Midweek Lent 3

Theme: Reconnaissance Report:
Know Your Enemy
Preacher: Pastor Joel Leyrer
Menu: Casserole night

March 18 – Midweek Lent 4

Theme: The Warrior Rejected
By Many Followers
Preacher: Pastor Timothy Wempner
Menu: Pulled pork

March 25 – Midweek Lent 5

Theme: Skirmishes
Preacher: Pastor Ben Wessel
Menu: Mexican fiesta night

April 1 – Midweek Lent 6

Theme: The Warrior Faces Satan's Ally –
The World
Preacher: Pastor Aaron Robinson
Menu: Chili

April 9 – Maundy Thursday (3:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. Communion Services)

April 10 – Good Friday (1:00 p.m. Communion Service)

April 10 – Good Friday (6:45 p.m. Tenebrae Service)

April 12 – Easter Sunday (6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service)

April 12 – Easter Sunday (8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Festival Services)



Personal Prayer for Before Communion

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior. Amen.

Personal Prayer for After Communion

Heavenly Father, through this holy supper you nourish my faith, increase my hope, and strengthen my love. Teach me always to hunger for your Son, the true and living bread.

Enable me to live by every word that proceeds from your mouth. Amen.

