

First English Lutheran Church

1311 E. 18th St.

Spencer, Iowa 51301

6:00 pm Communion Service

Paul E. Kaldahl, Pastor

Bonnie Kabrick, DCE

Kristin Kaldahl, Organist

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

Phone: 262-5598

ASH WEDNESDAY

We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday. Man was created from dust and will return to dust. Ashes remind us of the dust of death. The themes of Lent (human frailty, human mortality, the total depravity of the sinful nature of mankind, and Jesus' journey to the cross) remind us of our need to repent and our need for God's forgiving love. The somber tones of the liturgy and the hymns reflect the spirit of sorrow over the wickedness of our sin nature that cost Jesus His very life. But, He willingly suffered and died to free us from the unholy condition of our souls. With ashes of mourning and repentance, which will be placed upon our foreheads later in this service, we come before the Lord acknowledging our most desperate need for a Savior!

NO PRESERVICE MUSIC *(due to the solemn nature of Lent)*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

HYMN – LSB #547 vs 1-4 "The Lamb"

WELCOME and SHARING OF THE PEACE

INVOCATION

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

P: We make our Lenten beginning in the name of the God the Father,

C: **Who sent His only begotten Son to suffer and die for the sins of the world,**

P: We make our Lenten beginning in the name of the God the Son,

C: **Who has given us life and hope by willingly paying the price of His innocent blood to free us from our sin.**

P: We make our Lenten beginning in the name of the God the Holy Spirit,

C: **By whose power we are enabled to believe in the miracle of forgiveness and life in Jesus. Amen**

CONFESSION

ALL: I have failed Lord, and my failure weighs heavily upon my heart. I cannot bring myself to share my sins with others, but Lord, you know what they are and how far I have fallen short of Your standard and expectations. My moral and spiritual failures occur because of the weakness that springs forth from my sinful nature. I deserve to face Your wrath and punishment both now and forevermore.

(Sung by Pastor — Tune: LSB #704)

Remove the pow'r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still.

P: Lord, I know that nothing can be hidden from You.

C: **Purge me of guilt, heal the hurts of those who have been afflicted by my failures. Lord, renew my failing spirit! Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and renew a right spirit within me.**

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord and Savior, 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.**

PSALM 51 — REPENTANCE/CONFESSION

(Sung by Pastor — Tune: LSB #704)

Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Thy holy face.

All: God, may the measure of Your eternal love be the measure of Your mercy. May the measure of Your mercy be sufficient to blot out our great sin and cancel out the guilt of our wrongdoings.

(silence for spiritual reflection)

(Sung by Pastor — Tune: LSB #704)

Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.

P: As You have created new hearts in us, through the blood of Your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, we unleash our tongues to sing Your praise. And, as we commit our lives to You, we open our wills to perform Your tasks.

C: I do commit to You with a sincere desire to be Your servant, to walk according to Your Commandments, to receive Your love and channel it to those around me. I thank You, God, that this is acceptable to You, and that I will remain Your child forever.

(Sung by Pastor — Tune: LSB #704)

Grant that I only You may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light eternal, through Your grace.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND EXHORTATION

P: Brother and sisters, God created us to experience joy in communion with Him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of His creation.

C: But sin separated us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we don't enjoy the life our Creator intended for us.

P: Also by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under His judgment, but to turn to Him and live.

C: As a disciple of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

P: I invite you therefore to commit yourselves the Lenten disciplines of repentance, prayer and meditation of God's Holy Word.

[Ashes symbolize our human frailty, humiliation, and repentance before God. They also suggest cleansing and renewal. Those, who desire to receive ashes, are invited to come forward during the singing of the hymn. In addition, the congregation may wish to use this time to silently read and meditate on Psalm 90 on page 335 in the front of the hymnal.]

HYMN – LSB #440 “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

[The ashes are applied with the thumb in the form of a small cross on the forehead of each person. The ushers will address each person with these words: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and everlasting God, because You hate nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent, create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily repenting of our sin and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE PASSION HISTORY GETHSEMANE

P: Then they started out for the Mount of Olives. Jesus took His disciples as usual to the other side of the Kidron Valley and Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane. He told them:

C: “You will all fall away because of Me this night.”

P: Peter declared to Him:

C: “Though they all fall away because of you; I will never fall away.”

P: “Peter, I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny Me three times.” And Peter said:

C: “Even if I die with You, I will not deny You!”

P: Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane. He told them:

C: “Sit down here while I go over there and pray. Pray that you may not be tempted.”

P: He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, with Him, and He began to feel alarmed and distressed. Then He said to them:

C: “My soul is so full of sorrow that I am at the point of death. Remain here and stay awake with Me.”

P: He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible He might not have to suffer what was ahead of Him. He said:

C: “Abba! Father! You can do anything. If it is possible, and if You wish, take this cup away from Me; but let it not be as I want, but as You want it.”

P: An angel from heaven appeared to Him and gave Him strength. And as He began to struggle inwardly, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. After praying, He got up, went to the disciples, and found them sleeping because they were feeling sad. He asked Peter:

C: “Simon, are you sleeping?”

P: Then He said to them:

C: “So you could not stay awake with Me one hour! Why are you sleeping? Get up, stay awake, and pray that you may not be tempted. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

P: Then He went away a second time and prayed the same as before:

C: “My Father, if this cup cannot pass by without My drinking it, Your will be done.”

P: He came again and found them asleep—they could not keep their eyes open, and they did not know what to say to Him. After leaving them

again, He went away and prayed the same prayer a third time. Then He came back to the disciples a third time and said to them:

C: “Sleep on and take your rest! It is enough. The time has come. Now the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, here comes the one who is betraying me!”

HYMN – LSB #435 “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for Your Church. Heal her divisions, rid her of hypocrisy in all forms, and restore to fullness her zeal for the Gospel, that in all her doings Your name is glorified. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the nations of this world, especially those which scorn you. Grant to all the wisdom which comes down from above that they may see treasures in heaven instead of the things of this world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We remember those with all kinds of needs: the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the homeless and oppressed, the lonely and unloved, the aged and the little children, and especially those who do not know You as their Savior. Grant to them special measure of Your grace. Empower all of us to share Your great love with those less fortunate. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We bring before You those among us who we now name in our hearts (*silent petitions are offered*). Where there is disagreement grant reconciliation. To those who are sick or shut-in or hospitalized, especially . . . and to those who mourn . . . fill these people with the power of Your presence, and continually strengthen them that they might know the comfort of the Holy Spirit, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lastly we remember before You all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude without number, whose confidence was in Your cross, and who now rest with You forevermore. Grant to all of us the same joy, which comes from trusting in You until that day when we too are received into glory. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

OFFERING (*hymn sung during the offering*)

HYMN – LSB #425 “When I Survey the Wondrous”

THE HOLY SUPPER OF OUR LORD

[The Preface and the Sanctus are omitted in keeping with the somber spirit of the day.]

P: Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant.

C: I formed you, you are my servant. O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.

P: I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like a mist.

C: Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

P: Indeed, under the Law, everything is purified with blood.

C: And without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

P: For our sake, God made Him to be sin who knew no sin,

C: so that in Him, we might become the righteousness of God.

P: The blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.

ALL: To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and made us a kingdom priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

LSB #431 “Not All the Blood”

LSB #550 “Lamb of God”

LSB #423 “Jesus Refuge of the Weary”

LSB #613 “To Thee Omniscient Lord”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Almighty God, we give thanks that Your Son, Jesus, suffered and died for our sins.

C: We celebrate with joy His resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, and His coming to us in bread and wine.

P: We are grateful for the work of Your Holy Spirit who strengthens our faith through the body and blood of our blessed Savior.

C: By Your almighty power and undeserved love keep our faith safe and sound until the coming day of the Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

HYMN – LSB #454 “Sing, My Tongue”

[NO POSTLUDE --- Please exit the sanctuary in silence]

Remember to pick up your Lenten Devotions in the narthex

✝ ✝ **VISITORS and MEMBERS** ✝ ✝

Sometime during the service, we ask that everyone fill out one of the cards found in the pew racks so that we might have a record of your worship with us today. For our visitors we ask that you please sign our Guest Register on the table next to the front door as you leave. We are pleased to have you join us this morning as we praise our great God and encourage you to visit us again when possible.

✝ ✝ ✝ **HOLY COMMUNION** ✝ ✝ ✝

We ask our visitors to note that our Lutheran understanding of Holy Communion is different than that of most other churches. We have always believed that Christ's body and blood are present, in a very real way, in, with, and under the bread and wine. (*"This is my body . . . This is my blood."* Matt. 26:26,28) We also believe that this eating and drinking of Christ's body and blood forgives our sins and the strengthens our faith.

By communing together, we become united, not only in saving faith, but also in belief regarding the scriptural teachings of the Lord's Supper. Expressions of unity we feel should be honest. We love and respect other Christians who believe differently, and welcome all to worship with us. **Because of our understanding of communion fellowship, we invite only members of First English Lutheran church and those who are members of the Lutheran Church Missouri synod (LCMS) to commune here.**

If you are a member of the LCMS, please follow the four steps of preparation for Holy Communion, which are printed out on the white cards found in the rack on the pew in front of you. When you attend Holy Communion, please register by filling out one of the white cards and pass them to the inner aisle during the offering so that the ushers can collect it.

For those who prefer, the cup in the center of the communion tray is grape juice with a drop of wine. If you do not feel secure taking the individual cup from the tray, please hold out your hand to indicate your concern and the cup will be handed to you. Small children are invited to accompany their parents if they desire to receive a blessing from the Pastor.

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