



Ash Wednesday

02.22.2023

Cross Lutheran Church and School

About Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion, is celebrated at this altar in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

As a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS), Cross Lutheran Church & School practices "Close Communion." The Bible teaches that to receive Holy Communion without believing that it is Christ's body and blood is spiritually harmful (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). In addition, the Bible teaches that receiving the Lord's Supper expresses a unity in belief with all who commune at this altar; it underscores and celebrates a precious oneness that we hold dear (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:26). We are grateful for the oneness that transcends denominational lines, yet we practice Close Communion because oneness in doctrine is also proclaimed in this celebration.

Confirmed members of LC-MS congregations and church bodies with whom the LC-MS shares altar fellowship who are communing here for the first time are asked to let an Elder or the Pastor know as you leave today. If you have not yet been instructed, are in doubt, or hold a confession differing from that of the LC-MS, we respectfully ask you to refrain from communing until you have had opportunity to speak with an Elder or one of the Pastors. You are invited forward to receive a blessing—please keep your hands folded in front of you. Pastor Fraker or Pastor Mark would be happy to talk to you about Communion or any questions you have. You are welcome to speak with them after the Service. Thank you!

****Gluten free wafers are available; please indicate your preference to the Pastors.
Non-alcoholic white wine cups are located in the center of each tray.**

AS WE GATHER We are called to remember our mortality as human beings. We are dust and ashes. We are sinful. We will all die one day. Yet, we also remember our immortality that is gifted to us because of Christ and His saving work on the cross. Lent is a desert journey from the dust and ashes of Ash Wednesday to the cross and forgiveness of Good Friday, and then ultimately, to the joys of Easter and new life. But we do not fast-forward through the desert. We still must wander through Lent in humility and faith. 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.



BENEDICTION

Pastor: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;

People: **Blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

LSB #744 vv.1-3

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.
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POSTLUDE

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❖ We thank all who prepared and served our fellowship meal this evening!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

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

LSB #431 “Not All the Blood of Beasts”

LSB #421 “Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”

PLEASE STAND FOR THE DISMISSAL

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
People: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

SOUND OF HAMMER / CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME BY PASTOR DON FRAKER / PASTOR MARK HARRIS

(Please stand)

HYMN	“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”	LSB 606
1	I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God; He bears them all and frees us From the accursèd load. I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.	
2	I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him; He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem. I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares; He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.	
3	I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine; His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline. I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord; Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.	

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INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

People: **according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Pastor: King David sinned against the Lord, committing adultery and murder. When he was confronted by the prophet Nathan, the king repented of his sins. In the Spirit-inspired words of a psalm, David expressed his sorrow over his sins and his trust in God's mercy: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions." God, in his grace, forgave the repentant king. As we begin our Lenten journey on this Ash Wednesday, we repent of our sins and, using the words of David's psalm, we seek God's amazing grace and ask him to have mercy on us.

People: **"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight ... Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities" (Psalm 51:1-4, 9).**

Pastor: Just as he did in the life of his servant David, God has showered us with his grace, his undeserved favor for sinners. God sent his Son into the world to be our Savior. On the cross Jesus took onto himself the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins and now those sins are washed away in his blood. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: **"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit" (Psalm 51:10-12).**

Pastor: Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit, help us to be bold in our witness for our Savior. We pray that through our acts of love and service and through our words of witness that, by your grace, others will come to know and worship Jesus as Lord and Savior. Gracious Lord,

People: **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

MUSICAL OFFERING

(Please stand)

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth.

LORD'S PRAYER

People: **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.**

(Please stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Almighty God, we praise you for the grace displayed in the life of your servant King David. Through David's descendant and greater Son, Jesus Christ our King, you fulfilled your promise to bring us life and salvation. Gracious Lord,

People: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, we pray that you will, by the power of your Spirit, lead us to true repentance. As we follow our Lord on his path to the cross, help us to see that it was our sins for which Jesus suffered and died. Gracious Lord,

People: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, during Lent and beyond this holy season, we pray that, with the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, we might bear fruit in keeping with repentance. We want to glorify you each day in our thoughts, words and actions. Gracious Lord,

People: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, we pray that you would bring help and comfort to those who are ill and suffering in body, mind or spirit. According to your gracious will, grant comfort and healing to them. Help them to find hope and joy in the promises of your Word. Gracious Lord,

People: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, you showed grace and mercy to your servant David, granting him forgiveness. According to your perfect plan, David the king became an ancestor of a greater King, the Savior called the Son of David, Jesus the Messiah. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we also know and experience your amazing grace. During this season of Lent, lead us to true repentance and renew your Spirit within us that we might serve you by sharing your love with others and living as witnesses to Jesus' love. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Please be seated)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: In repentant humility, the Old Testament figure Job said, "I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). In ancient times, God's people often demonstrated sorrow for their sins by putting dust and ashes on their heads, a reminder of the penalty of death decreed in Eden, when God said, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Today on Ash Wednesday, as we begin our journey to the cross with Jesus, we remember that we are sinners and that we need a Savior. We receive a mark of ashes in the sign of a cross, remembering that, on the cross, Jesus took onto himself the penalty of death for our sins. You are invited to come forward and receive the mark of ashes.

As each person comes forward, the pastors make the sign of the cross on the forehead or the hand with ashes, saying:

Pastor: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

IMPOSITION HYMNS

LSB #419 "Savior, When in Dust to Thee"

LSB #611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

LSB #609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

OLD TESTAMENT READING—2 Samuel 12:1-13

And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had very many flocks and herds, ³ but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to

eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴ Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.” ⁵ Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, ⁶ and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.”

⁷ Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. ⁸ And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. ⁹ Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ ¹¹ Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. ¹² For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’” ¹³ David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

SPECIAL MUSIC (7:00 p.m.) “Behold the Lamb” Choir

(Please stand)

GOSPEL READING — Luke 15:8-10

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

HYMN

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

LSB #704

- 1 Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
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SERMON

“Grace for the Sinner”

2 Samuel 12:1-13