

St. James Lutheran Church
*“We worship together, grow in faith,
share our faith and serve with the love of God”*
Leader: Pastor Tonia Fisher
Ash Wednesday, February 17th, 2021



Prelude & Silent Meditation
Welcome

Lenten Litany

P: We gather in the dimness of evening

All: to be with the God who brightens the shadows of our lives.

P: We gather in the quiet of this place,

All: to be with Jesus, knowing that nothing past, present, or future separates us.

P: We gather to be marked as disciples,

All: to be fed for the journey through Lent, to be sealed by the Spirit as God's own.

Lenten Litany Hymn: “Be Thou My Vision”

Vs 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou are;
Thou mu best thought both by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Vs 2 Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,
Still be my vision O Ruler of all.

GATHERING

Confessionlet us confess our sins through the words of Psalm 51:

P: Have mercy on me, 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.

All: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

P: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

All: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

P: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice;

All: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

P: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

All: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

P: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

All: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Assurance of God's Love

Prayer of the day

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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.

Sign of God's Mercy

Imposition of Ashes



Gathering Hymn: "O God, Be Merciful to Me" to the tune of "Amazing Grace"

Vs 1 O God, be merciful to me
Because your love is strong;
Now wash me from iniquity
And cleanse me from all wrong.

Vs 2 These words are old, but still they live
Within our hearts today.
We cry to you: "O God, forgive!"
And "Wash our sins away!"

Word

Listen to the 1st Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Word of Wisdom, Word of God. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

Listen to the 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Word of Wisdom, Word of God. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the Gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Listen to the reading of the Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily: "Yet Even Now"

Reflection Hymn: "What Wondrous Love is This?"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayers of the People:

P: Healing God, we come before you broken, yet seeking wholeness; isolated, yet seeking community; overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity; shamed, yet seeking grace:

All: God, we yearn for the healing you promise.

P: God of Justice, we come before you selfish, yet seeking a generous heart; arrogant, yet seeking humility; responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness:

All: God, we yearn for the justice you promise.

P: God of Peace, we come before you afraid, yet seeking assurance; agitated, yet seeking serenity; angry, yet seeking a forgiving heart:

All: **God, we yearn for the peace you promise.**

P: *Knowing that through Christ all things are made new,*

All: **We come to this communion table to be recreated through the bread and cup, and to be renewed in our faith and commitment. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Meal

The Table is Set

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spirit within me.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

.....we join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Mystery of our Faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Communion will look a little different during our season of Covid-19.

It will still be the Lord's supper.

We **will** partake the body of Christ **with Pastor.**

We **will** partake the blood of Christ **with Pastor.**

Prayer after Communion..... and we say: **Amen**

SENDING

Blessing..... and we say: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with thee,

Grant it, Jesus is my plea;

Daily walking close to thee,

Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Vs 1 I am weak but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk,
Let me walk close to thee.

Back to Refrain:

Dismissal:

Our worship has now ended and now our service begins. Marked with the cross of Christ, we go out in peace to love and serve God. **Thanks be to God**

FYI, reminder for the next 5 Wednesdays.....

St. James Lutheran Church

will record the



“On A Journey”

Each Wednesday (starting 2/24 through 3/24)

- Watch your email for the worship bulletin to follow along.
- Watch the **recorded Mid-Week Lenten Worship service** on our FB page or on ****YouTube**



You will be able to click on this picture to go directly to our FB Page



You will be able to click on this picture to go directly to the YouTube link

Blessings on your Lenten Journey.....

