

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School (LCMS)

Est. 1864



Pastors:

Matthew V. Moss and Matthew P. Johnson

pastor.moss@stjlutheran.org pastor.johnson@stjlutheran.org

9141 County Road 101
Corcoran, MN 55340

Important Announcements

For those who watch services on Live-Stream

Maintaining Piety when Worshiping at Home: The best way to get the most out of this alternative technology is to keep things in your household as regular as possible:

- Print the bulletin or use your hymnals
- Dress like you would dress for church
- Stand when we stand, sit when we sit
- Sing along with the hymns
- Watch at the live time, Sunday morning, setting it aside as first priority instead of looking for whatever time is most convenient for you
- Limit the distractions, toys, and tech so that the time is truly "sacred" (set-apart) for Christ and His means of grace

These ideas can help you focus on the Service of the Word and will also help you prevent bad habits from developing.

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

Preacher: Pr. Matthew Moss

Liturgist: Pr. Matthew Johnson

Kantor: Dr. Katie Moss

Soloist: Mr. Mike Gaffer

Choirs: Grades 5-8 Choir, Grades 7-8 Handbell Choir

Invitation to Lenten Observance

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Litany for Ash Wednesday

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy.



L O Christ,



C have mer - cy.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy.



L O Christ,



C hear us.



L God the Fa - ther in heaven,



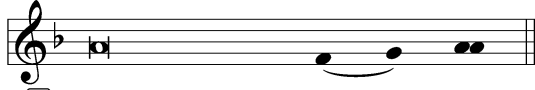
C have mer - cy.



L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,



C have mer - cy.



L God the Holy Spir - it,



C have mer - cy.



L Be gra - cious to us.



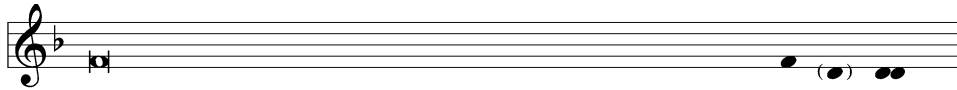
C Spare us, good Lord.



L Be gra - cious to us.



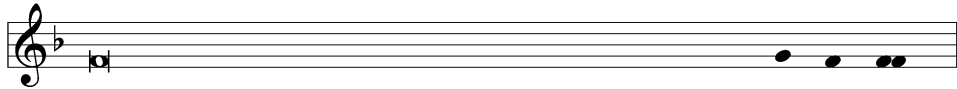
C Help us, good Lord.



L From all sin, from all error, from all e - vil;
 From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and e - vil death;
 From pestilence and famine;
 from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from re - bel - lion;
 From lightning and tempest;
 from all calamity by fire and water; and from ever - last - ing death:



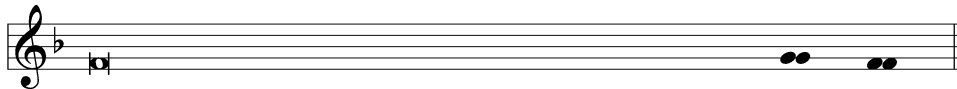
C Good Lord, de - liv - er us.



L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy na - tiv - i - ty;
 By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
 by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your
 cross and passion; by Your precious death and bur - i - al;
 By Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
 and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Com - fort - er:



C Help us, good Lord.



L In all time of our tribulation; in all time
 of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judg - ment:



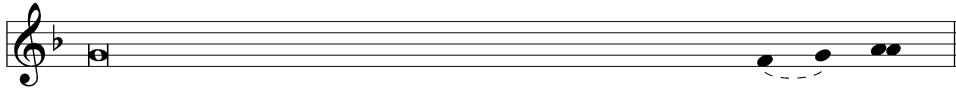
C Help us, good Lord.



L We poor sinners im - plore You



C to hear us, O Lord.



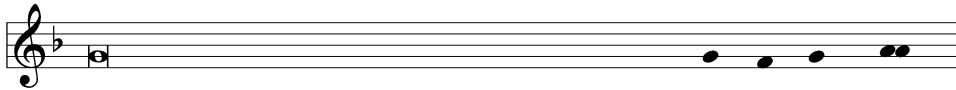
L To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church;
to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your
Church in the true knowledge and understanding
of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy liv - ing;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense;
to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are de - ceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet;
to send faithful laborers into Your harvest;
and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spir - it:



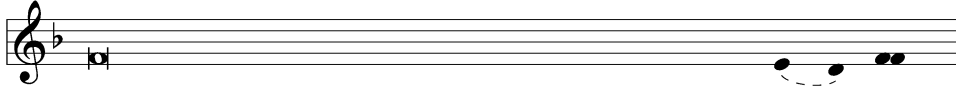
C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



L To raise those who fall and to strengthen those
who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the dis - tressed:



C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



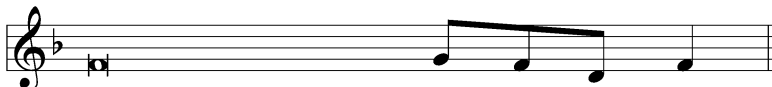
L To give to all peoples concord and peace;
to preserve our land from discord and strife;
to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president/queen/king and all in
authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our peo - ple;

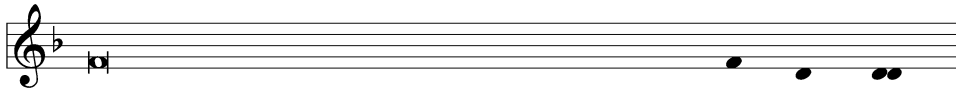
To watch over and help all who are in danger,
necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who trav - el;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers
with infant children, increasing happiness in
their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and pro-vide for them;

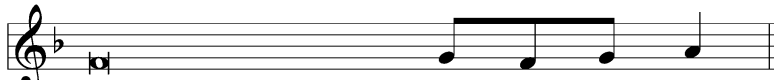
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and
young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:



C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



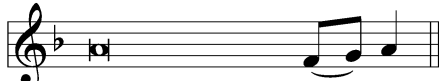
L To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers
and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our
use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:



C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,



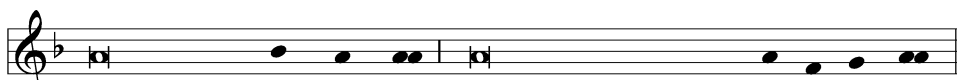
C we implore You to hear us.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C have mer - cy.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C have mer - cy.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C grant us Your peace.



L O Christ,



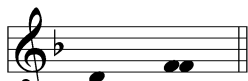
C hear us.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy.



L O Christ,



C have mer - cy.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy. A - men.

Corporate Confession & Absolution

Psalm

Psalm 51, vv. 1-12 (v. 2 - antiphon)

Sung responsively by whole verse (congregation sings even numbered verses)

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon 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 A - men.



Sit

Anthem:

1:00 pm— Lord, Have Mercy (Gr. 7-8 Handbell Choir)

The Epistle: 2 Peter 1:2-11

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Tract

Psalm 103:10; 79:8a, 9a

He does not deal with us according | to our sins,*
nor repay us according to our in- | iquities.
Do not remember against us our former in- | iquities;*
let your compassion come speedily to | meet us.
Help us, O God of our sal- | vation,*
for the glory | of your name.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

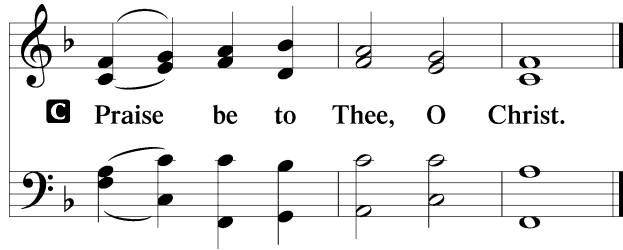
⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶[Jesus said:] “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head

and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

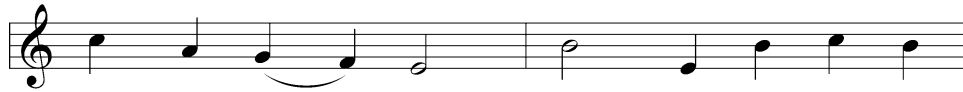
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee



1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and
 2 Thy love and grace a-lone a-vail To blot out
 3 There-fore my hope is in the Lord And not in
 4 And though it tar-ry through the night And till the
 5 Though great our sins, yet great-er still Is God's a-



trib-u-la-tion; Bend down Thy gra-cious
 my trans-gres-sion; The best and ho-liest
 mine own mer-it; It rests up-on His
 morn-ing wak-en, My heart shall nev-er
 bun-dant fa-vor; His hand of mer-cy



ear to me, Lord, hear my sup-plica-tion.
 deeds must fail To break sin's dread op-pres-sion.
 faith-ful Word To them of con-trite spir-it
 doubt His might Nor count it-self for-sak-en.
 nev-er will A-ban-don us, nor wa-ver.



If Thou re-mem-b'rest ev-'ry sin, Who then could heav-en
 Be-fore Thee none can boast-ing stand, But all must fear Thy
 That He is mer-ci-ful and just; This is my com-fort
 O Is-rael, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spir-it
 Our shep-herd good and true is He, Who will at last His



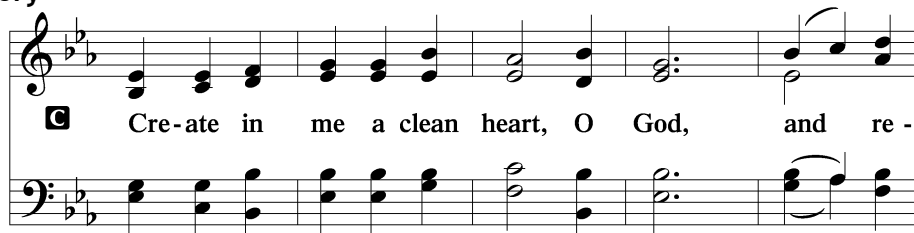
ev-er win Or stand be-fore Thy pres-ence?
 strict de-mand And live a-lone by mer-cy.
 and my trust. His help I wait with pa-tience.
 and the Word, Now wait for His ap-pear-ing.
 Is-rael free From all their sin and sor-row.

Text and tune: Public domain

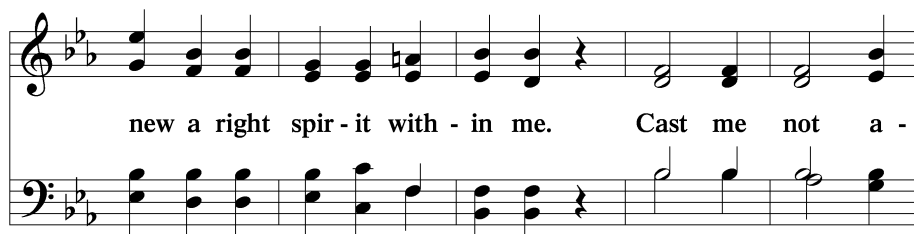
Sermon: *From Idols to Ashes (Matthew 6)*

Offertory

LSB 192



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-



new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-

way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it
 from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-
 tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

Offering: 1:00 pm— *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God (Leavitt)* (Gr. 5-8 Choir)
 7:00 pm— *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God (Willan)* (Solo)

Prayer of the Church

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
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*Join us at 7:00 P.M. each Wednesday of Lent for the Office of Vespers.
 2023 Lenten Theme: The Cruciform Life: Bearing Christ in Our Vocations*

The Practice of Placing Ashes on our Foreheads

The ashes adorning our foreheads are not a symbol of fasting or disfiguring our faces to get attention (Matt. 6:16). Adorning ashes is an action of humility and repentance. The earliest biblical example is Job’s own confession before God, “*I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes*” (Job 42:6). Faithful Mordecai and all the Jews don sackcloth and ashes when they are threatened with extermination (Esther 4:1-3). The Prophet Daniel does the same as part of his great prayer of confession (Daniel 9). And the Ninevites are noted for their reaction to Jonah’s preaching, putting on sackcloth and ashes even including the animals (Jonah 3:6). Jesus also includes it as a fruit of repentance that He wished to see in the cities that rejected Him (Matt. 11:21 & Luke 10:13).

We Christians follow this practice of Old & New Testaments. We hear the words of the curse in Genesis 3, “*You are dust and to dust you shall return*”, but the Sign of the Cross is made both in remembrance of our Baptism into Christ and in remembrance of His all-atoning death for sin. When you go to wash it off later this day, do as Luther instructs us whenever we wash, “remember your baptism.”

The ashes themselves are made from the burning of palm branches, often the very same ones used on Palm Sunday the year before. You may think on the shouts of “Hosanna” which means “Save us now” and recall **from what** we are asking to be saved? Meditate on your sins with contrition. Approach with repentance and humility, and always proceed in faith in the Son of God who loves us and takes our sin upon Himself.