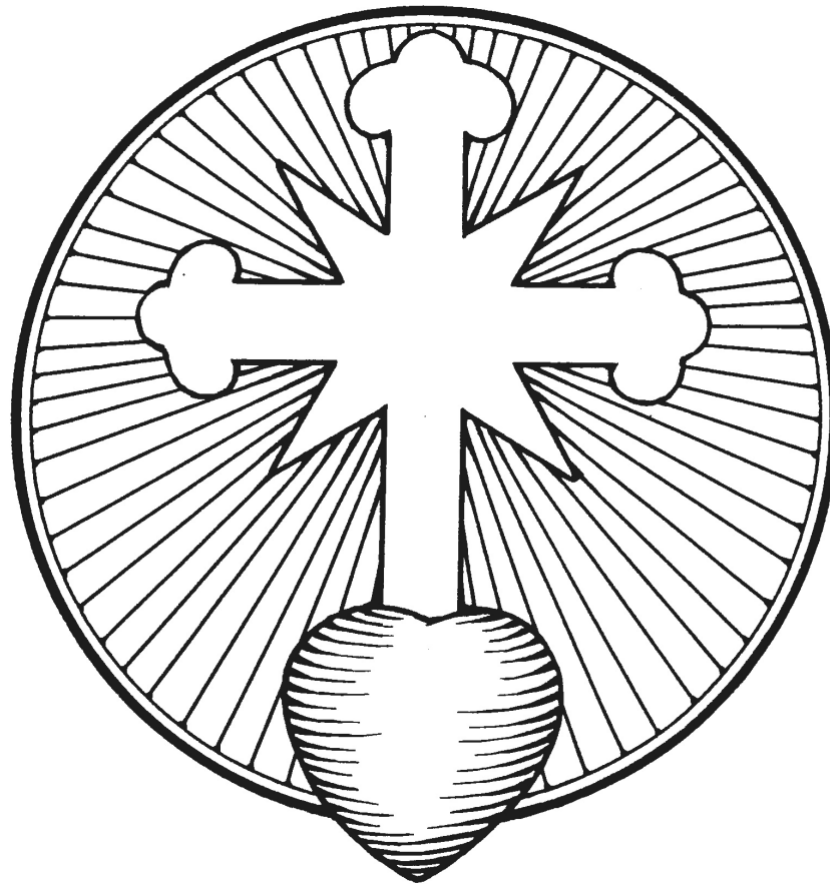


Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Ash Wednesday
February 14th, 2024

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The Order of Worship
Divine Service Setting One (LSB 151)

*(Please stand if you are able for portions of the liturgy marked with an *)*

Lenten Address

The Litany (*Congregational Response is in Bold*)

O Lord, **have mercy.**

O Christ, **have mercy.**

O Lord, **have mercy.**

O Christ, **hear us.**

God the Father in heaven, **have mercy.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy.**

Be gracious to us. **Spare us, good Lord.**

Be gracious to us. **Help us, good Lord.**

By the mystery of Your holy incarnation...and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter: **Help us, good Lord.**

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment: **Help us, good Lord.**

We poor sinners implore You **to hear us, O Lord.**

To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance: **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

To draw all to Yourself...and to have mercy on us all: **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers: **We implore You to hear us good Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, **we implore You to hear us.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **have mercy.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **have mercy.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **grant us Your peace.**

O Christ, **hear us.**

O Lord, **have mercy.**
O Christ, **have mercy.**
O Lord, **have mercy, Amen.**

Prayer

Imposition of Ashes (*For those who desire this, please form a line down the center aisle.*)

What does this mean? The ashes placed upon our foreheads are a sign of our mortality and death. “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Yet, notice how the ashes form a cross. This helps us to remember the first time the sign of the cross was made on us at our Baptism. In these Baptismal waters, the stain of sin is washed away.

Hymn: Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419

Old Testament: Joel 2:12-19

¹² “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” ¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

Gradual: Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge. He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples me.

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.

Tract: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. Do not remember against our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

Holy Gospel: * Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹ “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“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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that 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, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Nicene Creed*	LSB 158
Hymn: From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee (<i>Choir sings Stz. 1</i>)	LSB 607
Sermon	
Prayer of the Church*	
Announcements & Offering	
Offertory*	LSB 159
Service of the Sacrament*	LSB 160
Distribution Hymns: 609, 440, 579, 613	
Nunc Dimittis*	LSB 165
Benediction	
Closing Hymn: Lord Jesus, Think on Me	LSB 610

Announcements

Lenten Devotional: Throughout the Season of Lent, we will be reading through the Large Catechism. While we did this for Lent last year, it’s good for us to read through it again and again. Luther writes, “I am also a doctor and preacher, yea, as learned and experienced as all...yet I do as a child who is being taught the Catechism, and every morning, and whenever I have time, I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the Psalms, etc. And I must still read and study daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and student of the Catechism, and am glad so to remain.” So this Lent, let us continue to be students of the catechism, and joyfully read and take to heart this blessed gift that our church boldly confesses. For those who don’t have a copy, you may access it online at www.bookofconcord.org or the church can order you a hard copy. If you would prefer a hard copy, please let Pastor Jennings or Dena know.

New Sunday Morning Bible Study: For centuries, the psalms have been central to the church’s worship. While the language is beautiful and rich and comforting, the poetry can make the psalms a little challenging to understand and pray. So, join us on Sunday

mornings at 8:30am as we begin a new study on the Book of Psalms in order that we may integrate these prayers into our daily devotions and pray them with all boldness and confidence in any time of need.

Wednesday Religion Class: As mentioned in previous weeks, members of the church are invited to attend pastor's Lutheran catechesis class in the preschool basement on Wednesday night beginning at 5:45pm. This is a great opportunity to review the basic tenants of what we believe, teach, and confess as Lutherans. This week our focus will be on *The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (Part 2)*

Private Confession and Absolution: The Lutheran Confessions state that private absolution should be retained and not abolished in the churches (Augsburg Confession, XI). With this in mind, if at any time you desire private confession and absolution, please give Pastor Jennings a call to set-up a time to meet privately.

Lutheran Podcast: Issues Etc. is a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5p.m. on KFUO, 850 AM in St. Louis. You can also listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

Find Bethlehem on Podbean or Facebook: Listen to Pastor Jennings sermons on Podbean or our Facebook page. Download the app 'Podbean' to your smartphone. Search for Bethlehem Lutheran church and begin listening.