

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Digital Worship



February 17, 2021

Rev. Christopher Buresh

As we enter this time of digital worship, we do so alongside the Body of Christ in a spiritual space while we abstain from doing so in a physical space. Please participate by reading aloud along with the leader the parts of the service which are **bolded** and standing where you find the + symbol.

We will also be sharing virtually in Holy Communion. We would invite those who desire to partake to prepare by setting up a space with elements suitable for eating and drinking. Suggestions for these elements include bread, crackers, wine, juice or water.

The Prelude: *"Pie Jesu" Faure*

+ THE OPENING LITANY

L After the fire has raged and the flames have died away and grown cold, nothing remains but ashes.

C We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

L After the hot passion of sin, after the cool calculation of evil, all that remains is brokenness and ashes.

C We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

L After the zeal for living has ebbed away and life has run its course, there is nothing left but ashes.

C We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

L But ashes are not the end. This Lenten season begins in ashes, but it will not end in ashes. We begin in dust, but we shall end in resurrection glory. Enter this season, then, with confidence and with hope: ashes are not the end.

C Lord, I do not like pain. I do not even like to be uncomfortable. I do not like the sorrow of heartbreak, the pangs of regret and the ache of broken relationships; and I do not like the honesty and humility that are needed to face this pain. Forgive me for the brokenness that I have caused. Forgive me for the brokenness that lies at the center of my heart. Make me whole again.

L God knows your reality. He knows that you are not what you were created to be. He knows that you are broken. But he does not abandon you to brokenness and pain. Instead, he has taken your brokenness and pain and made it his own. In the life, death, and resurrection of Christ you are forgiven, you are made whole.

C Amen.

+ The Imposition of Ashes

L In times of great sorrow and heartache, God's people of old would wear their grief. With sackcloth and ashes, their outward form reflected the reality of their hearts.

C Brokenness cannot be hidden away.

L We admit the brokenness of our hearts and we wear the sign of our brokenness: ashes.

C Our brokenness cannot be hidden away.

L Yet we know that brokenness is only part of the story. There's more. The ashes trace the shape of the cross—the cross that removes our sin, heals our brokenness, and makes us whole.

C Our brokenness is not forever; we are restored in the cross.

Music played during imposition of ashes:

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915 Public Domain

"Lamb of God"

music: Twila Paris

+ THE GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading: Joel 2:12-19

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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. 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?'" Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. 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.



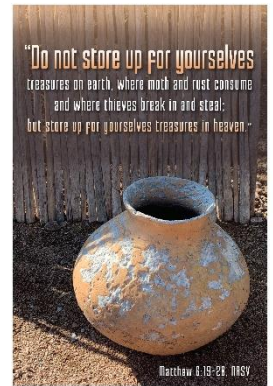
The Anthem: "My Song is Love Unknown"

Music: John Ireland, 1879-1962. Music ©1919 John Ireland Trust

+ The Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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. 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. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right

hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 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. But 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. 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. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 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. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



The Homily: **"Broken Hearts"**

+ THE PRAYERS:

Response: *L Christ who heals all brokenness,*
C restore our broken hearts.

+ THE OFFERING PRAYER

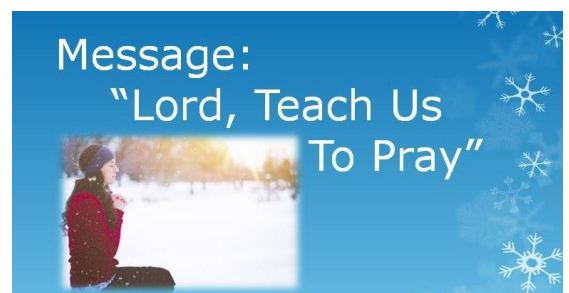
+ The WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**



+ HOLY COMMUNION

Music played during communion:

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

Music: W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. Hymnal version

"Now We Join in Celebration"

Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662



HOLY COMMUNION

+ THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

+ The BLESSING AND SENDING

L God the Father knew the brokenness of the world and sent his Son to restore it to his plan. In the power of his Holy Spirit, he makes all things whole. He makes your heart whole. Go in his peace.

C Amen.

The Postlude: *"Lenten Benediction"* Hazelle

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