

JESUS CHRIST
IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2018 — 7:00 p.m.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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Pastor Aaron Nitz

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Welcome to God's House of Worship!

Good evening! Welcome to our first mid-week Lenten service! During the church season of Lent we turn our focus on the passion of our Lord as He paid for our sins in full. During Lent we are struck with muted sadness over our sins that sent our Savior to the cross. This evening in a special service we confess our sins in true repentance and receive the free gift of forgiveness from our Lord. The order of worship is found printed in this service folder. Your little ones are welcome to stay with you, but if you prefer, a mom's room is located - along with the rest rooms - in the entry area.

Jesus Is Our Great High Priest

Today we begin our solemn Lenten journey which will take us to the cross of Christ on Good Friday. Ash Wednesday is a day of confession and repentance. Because of our sinfulness we are "dust to dust and ashes to ashes." "Dust we are and to dust we will return." On this day we confess our sinfulness that caused our Savior to suffer and die. This year during our midweek Lenten worship we will focus on Jesus being our High Priest and look at various sections from the book of Hebrews. Tonight we will see that Jesus is our great High Priest.

Prayer before Worship:

"Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, just as I am your sin. You have taken upon yourself what is mine and have given to me what is yours. You have taken upon yourself what you were not and have given to me what I was not." (Martin Luther)

The Order of Worship

Remain seated.

PSALM 51

Minister: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

Congregation: according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

M: Wash away all my iniquity

C: and cleanse me from my sin.

M: For I know my transgressions,

C: and my sin is always before me.

M: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

C: so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

M: Surely I was sinful at birth,

C: sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

M: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;

C: you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

M: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

C: wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

M: Let me hear joy and gladness;

C: let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

M: Hide your face from my sins

C: and blot out all my iniquity.

M: Create in me a pure heart, O God,

C: and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

M: Do not cast me from your presence

C: or take your Holy Spirit from me.

M: Restore to me the joy of your salvation

C: and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

M: Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
C: **and sinners will turn back to you.**
M: Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me,
C: **and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**
M: O Lord, open my lips,
C: **and my mouth will declare your praise.**
M: You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
C: **you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**
M: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
C: **a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**
M: In your good pleasure make Zion prosper;
C: **build up the walls of Jerusalem.**
M: Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings
to delight you;
C: **then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

Silence for meditation

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of

God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

**C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned
by our own fault,
by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward. Baptized children may come forward at their parents' discretion. You may receive the ashes either on the forehead or the hand.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The minister applies ashes in the form of a small cross, saying:

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



During the Imposition of Ashes, the congregation sings:

HYMN

#304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive

#305 *and so on as time permits*

After all who desire have received ashes, the minister says:

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

C: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

C: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

ABSOLUTION

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN BY THE CHOIR #534 In the Midst of Earthly Life
(text by Martin Luther)

FIRST LESSON **Isaiah 59:12-20** (NIV2011)

¹² For our offenses are many in your sight,
and our sins testify against us.
Our offenses are ever with us,
and we acknowledge our iniquities:
¹³ rebellion and treachery against the LORD,
turning our backs on our God,
inciting revolt and oppression,
uttering lies our hearts have conceived.
¹⁴ So justice is driven back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets,
honesty cannot enter.
¹⁵ Truth is nowhere to be found,
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.

The LORD looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.

¹⁶ He saw that there was no one,
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm achieved salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.

¹⁷ He put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

¹⁸ According to what they have done,
so will he repay
wrath to his enemies
and retribution to his foes;
he will repay the islands their due.

¹⁹ From the west, people will fear the name of the LORD,
and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory.
For he will come like a pent-up flood
that the breath of the LORD drives along.

²⁰ "The Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,"
declares the LORD.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 51a

Page 86 in the front of the hymnal

VERSE OF THE DAY

Joel 2:13

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 18:9-14 (NIV2011)

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:
¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and

prayed: “God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.

¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Christian Worship 98

SERMON

Theme: Jesus Is Our Great High Priest

Text: **Hebrews 1:1-3** (NIV2011)

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

HYMN

Lord, to You I Make Confession

Christian Worship 302

OFFERING

The members of St. Mark's have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. You are our guests, and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to share God's Word with you! Please take a moment to sign our friendship register.

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you

C: *(spoken)* And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts

C: *(spoken)* We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: *(spoken)* It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

M: In love, God, our Father, has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world. And so let us join our voices with all believers on earth and all angels in heaven and sing God's praises:

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY" *(sung to the melody of CW 103)*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord of heav'n and earth
You alone are holy. You alone have worth.**

**Jesus, precious Savior, I will sing your praise
You have come and saved me. Thank you for your grace.**

**"Holy, holy, holy," All your creatures sing,
All shall give you glory; Let your praises ring!**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: (spoken) Amen.

“LAMB OF GOD”

(sung to the melody of CW 103)

**Lamb of God, our Savior, you in bitter pains
Poured for me your life-blood, from your sacred veins.**

**Lamb of God, our Savior, please have mercy now
I, a lowly sinner, here before you bow.**

**Lamb of God, our Savior, sacrificed for me
Flood me with your mercy; Pour your peace on me.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

Dear Guest: The Bible convinces us that Jesus' body and blood are in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. The Bible tells us receiving the sacrament with a group is a public statement of oneness in their beliefs. That's why we ask guests who are not members of a Wisconsin Lutheran Synod (WELS or ELS) church to talk to the pastor and receive instruction in what we teach and believe before communing. We don't want to put you in the position of agreeing with our convictions before we've had a chance to explain them. We look forward to talking more about this with you!

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#113 Upon the Cross Extended

#114 *and so on as time permits*



THE BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

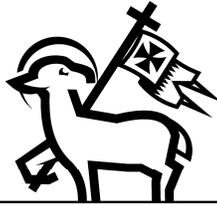
C: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart

v.1-2 Choir

v.3-4 Choir & Congregation



JESUS CHRIST

IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

February 14

“Jesus Is Our Great High Priest”

Supper served by the choir

February 21

“Jesus Is Our Perfect High Priest”

Potluck supper

February 28

“Jesus Is Our Compassionate High Priest”

Potluck supper

March 7

“Jesus Is Our Self-Sacrificing High Priest”

Potluck supper

March 14

“Jesus Our Great High Priest Serves at a Great Altar”

Potluck supper

March 21

“Jesus Our Great High Priest Makes Us Priests”

Potluck supper

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