

Worship
Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 26, 2023
8:30 & 9:45am



Good Shepherd

LUTHERAN CHURCH

651-451-6225

www.goodshepherdigh.com

Welcome to Worship

Whether one's feet are big or small, fresh or worn, running or crawling
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is:
Together on the Journey, Sharing God's Love

WELCOME

INSTALLMENT OF CHURCH COUNCIL

GREETING

- P. Today marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, a time when we aspire to make some room for deeper introspection and practices that will draw us into the love and assurance of faith. But sometimes faith can feel not as assured as we hoped for. We can feel "less than," perceiving that others seem to be able to be "more faithful" in their practices and beliefs. This Lent, rather than change for "the best," we'll seek to gain momentum one day at a time, "to reach for a faith that is never perfect, but good enough.
- C. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L. Let us pray together,
- C. **Holy One, Merciful God, make yourself known to us. Be present with us in this often troubled journey of life. Create in us hearts that are open to transformation. Give us the patience of practice in this Lenten season - ordering our days with time enough for you. Amen.**

SONG *"Create in Me"*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, O Lord, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and renew a right spirit within me.

BIBLE READING Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

"Be careful that you don't practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. "Whenever you give to the poor, don't blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get. But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you. "When you pray, don't be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get. But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you. "And when you fast, don't put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward. When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. Then you won't look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don’t eat them and where thieves don’t break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Word of the Lord

C. Thanks be to God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. Jesus used the word “hypocrite” to describe those who put on airs in public to make people believe that they were holy, that their religious practice was... well... perfect. But their hearts were actually not in the practice, rather in the rewards that public approval could bring them – which is here today, often gone tomorrow. Sometimes it is life itself that robs us of the shiny, perfect life that we had planned for ourselves. A diagnosis. A broken heart. A lost opportunity.

What places in your life and faith could you begin to loose from the chains of perfectionism? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silence is kept for Reflection

P. Hear this compassionate word from the prophet Isaiah: “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?... Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly.”

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the bonds of perfectionism, inviting us to break the yoke of what “should be” so that we might discover what “might be” when we honor the small steps that are *actually* possible, in this moment, for this one day.

P. And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

C. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

PRAYER SONG *“Come as You Are”*

Come out of sadness from wherever you’ve been. Come broken-hearted, let healing begin. Come find your mercy, oh sinner come kneel. Earth has no sorrow that heaven can’t heal. Earth has no sorrow that heaven can’t heal.

Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame. All who are broken, lift up your face. Oh wanderer come home, you’re not too far. So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart. Come as you are.

There’s hope for the hopeless and all those who’ve strayed. Come sit at the table, come taste the grace. There’s rest for the weary, rest that endures. Earth has no sorrow that heaven can’t cure.

So lay down your burdens, lay down your shame. All who are broken, lift up your face. Oh wanderer come home, you’re not too far. So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart. Come as you are. Come as you are. Fall in his arms. Come as you are.

There’s joy in the morning, oh sinner be still. Earth has no sorrow, that heaven can’t heal. Earth has no sorrow, that heaven can’t heal.

So lay down your burdens, lay down your shame. All who are broken, lift up your face. Oh wanderer come home, you're not too far. So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart. Come as you are. Come as you are. Come as you are. Come as you are.

REFLECTION *"Shiny Things" by Kate Bowler*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L. Lord in your mercy,

C. Hear our prayer.

SONG *"Day of Arising" sung to the tune of Morning Has Broken*

Day of arising, Christ on the roadway, unknown companion walks with his own. When they invite him, as fades the first day, and bread is broken, Christ is made known.

When we are walking, doubtful and dreading, blinded by sadness, slowness of heart, yet Christ walks with us, ever awaiting our invitation: Stay, do not part.

Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken. This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sing: when the church gathers, when bread is broken, there Christ is with us in bread and wine.

Christ, our companion, hope for the journey, bread of compassion, open our eyes. Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning that all creation with you may rise.

OFFERING PRAYER

L. Generous God,

C. in light of your extravagant blessings – no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives – we offer our gifts and ourselves, and know that you transform what we plant into the produce of love. Amen.

OFFERING RECEIVED

RITUAL OF ASHES & TURNING LADDERS INTO GARDENS

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES & COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

RECEIVING A SEEDLING AT THE GARDEN

SONG *"How Great Thou Art"*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *refrain*

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my burden gladly bearing he bled and died to take away my sin; *refrain*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *refrain*

SONG "Beautiful Savior"

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

COMMUNION BLESSING

BLESSING

- L. *Blessed are we* who are trying a new thing, though we can't quite see the whole of it. That's the beauty of the life of faith. We start in the middle, at the heart center of an unspoken desire to live into the glimpse we've had of You and of Your goodness.
- C. ***Blessed are we* who ask You to be the guide as we begin to build from here and create a stronger, more flexible rule of life. Trusting that you are trying to foster life in us.**
- L. *Blessed are we* who remember that we will fall short. We will fail, but that doesn't mean we are ruined. We simply pick up and begin again.
- C. ***Blessed are we, willing to be beginners all over again.***

BENEDICTION

- L. And now, the God who loves all of creation, especially when it's painful, and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life, and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways, goes with us, dwells among us, and gives us joy. Amen.

SONG "Step By Step"

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways, and step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways, and step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days, and I will follow

you all of my days, and I will follow you all of my days, and step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

DISMISSAL

L. Gentle reminder that even now, even today, God is here,

C. and somehow, that is good enough.

POSTLUDE

This Week Please Pray For:

Healing:

Renee Olson, stage 4 ovarian cancer (daughter of Adrienne Olsen, sister of Barbara Isaacson).

Drusilla Ticiu, slowly recovering at home after knee surgery

Lorrie Kelly, recovering after hospitalization

Ken Rich, on hospice care

Caroline Besky, recovering in transitional care

Greif:

The Robertson family grieving the death of Kelly's sister Carrie

Lee Rich grieving the death of her husband Ken

Other:

Those recovering from natural disasters

Victims of any kind of violence