



Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

You are created uniquely by God and you are welcome here.
Your Abilities· Age· Culture· Economic Status· Gender Expression/Identity·
Life Circumstances· Marital Status· Questions· Race· Sexual Orientation· are welcome here.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian," American folk hymn, arranged by Cindy Berry

CONFESSION OF SIN:

Leader: During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart.
Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

All: Amen.

Leader: God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by
your Spirit to confess our sins, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you
set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.
(*Silence for reflection and self examination*)

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness, and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³For I know | my offenses, and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins, and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

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¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.
¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**
¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**
¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

Leader: Merciful God,

**All: Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.
We have spoken when we should have kept quiet. (Silence)**

All: We were silent when we should have said something. (Silence)

All: We acted when we knew better. (Silence)

All: We were still when we know we should have moved. (Silence)

**All: For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on
us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Leader: People of God, look to the ✝ Son, given to heal you and set you free because
God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

All: Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

Leader: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only
by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen

*(At this time you are invited to Impose Ashes on the foreheads of your family members. During this time you are encouraged
to observe a time of silent meditation as you reflect on all that Christ has done for you.)*

RESPONSE TO RECEIVING THE ASHES

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

All: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

Leader: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

All: bring us with all of your Saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Leader: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our
Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the
Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

All: Amen.

Hymn: “*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*” ELW 324 (Bulletin Pg. 6)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve
you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with
confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **All: Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near — ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. ¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you. "See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

All: Glory to you O Lord.

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever 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 whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The Gospel of the Lord.

L: The Gospel of the Lord **All: Praise to you O Christ.**

WE SHARE THE MEAL

HYMN OF THE DAY: “*Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*” ELW#334 (Bulletin Pg. 7)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Leader: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Leader: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Leader: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

All: Amen.

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

WE SEND TO SERVE

BENEDICTION:

L: Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Let the memory of your incomplete humanity awaken you to the wonders, joys, sorrows, and pain of life. Let the ashes you wear be the ashes of transformation; of awakening to the beauty and love of seizing the moment and living it to the fullest. Remember You are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of the ONE who is, was, and ever more shall be; Creator, ✝ Christ, and Spirit

All: **Amen.**

SENDING

Hymn: "*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*" ELW #326 (Bulletin Pg. 8)

DISMISSAL

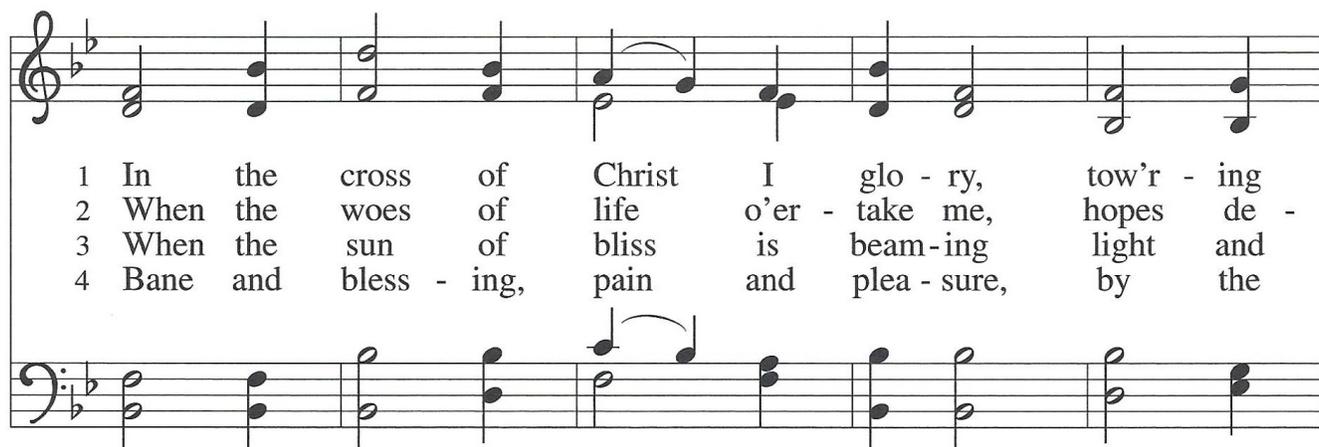
Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Poor!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

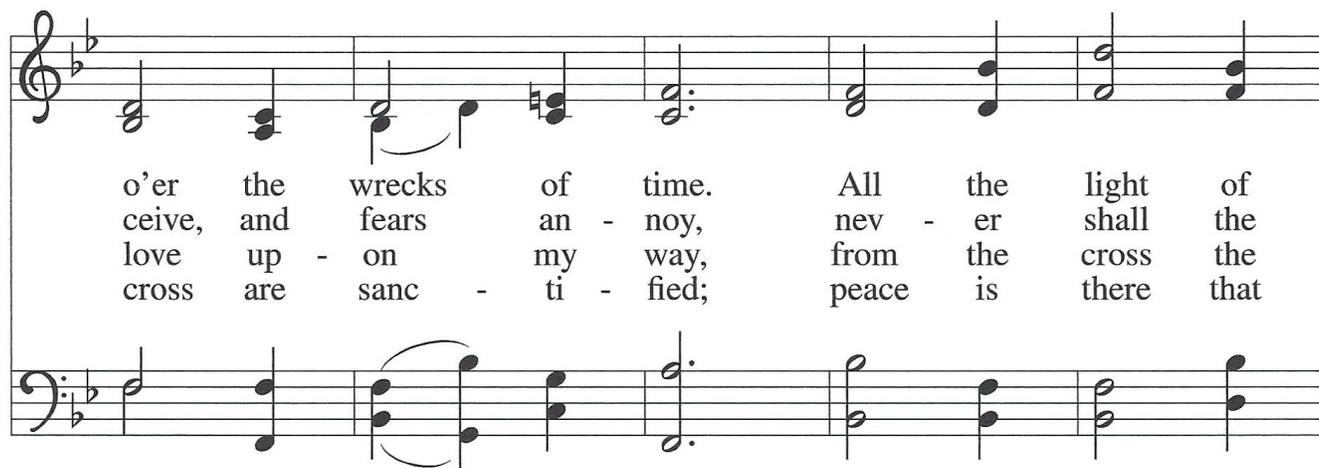
Postlude "*The Wonderful Cross*," Tomlin, Walt, and Reeves, arranged by Carol Tornquist

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

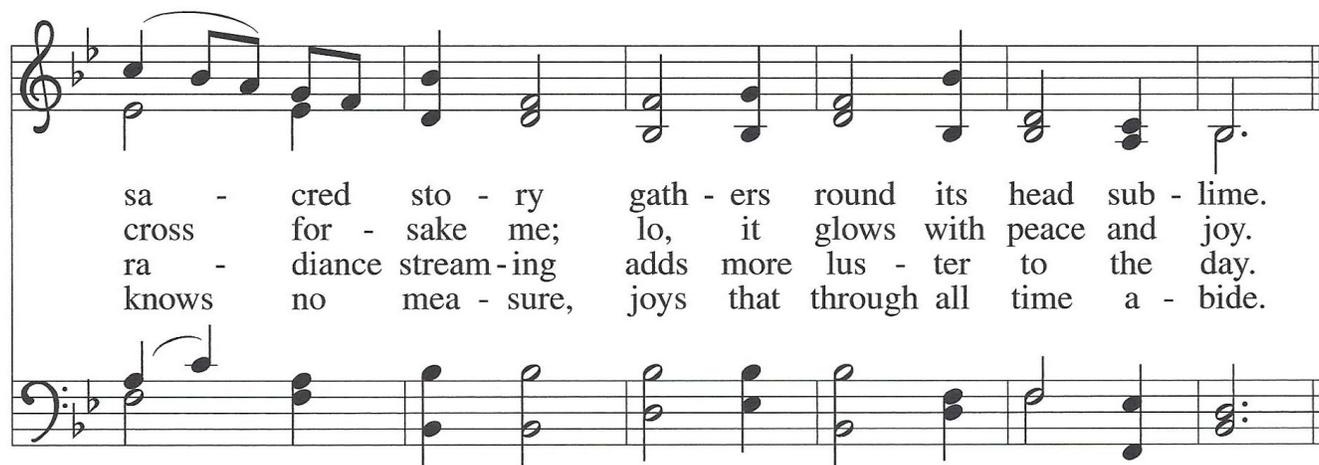
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1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

LENT

334 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

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1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.