

Lent worship 9 am

**Memorial Lutheran Church
First Sunday in Lent—Feb 21, 2021**

Gather together in worship

Welcome and Greeting

PM. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

Call to worship (Linda McCall – assistant)

Symbols: Bread and Wine

Core Value: Diverse Worship: We value Scripturally based experiences that engage all people

Core Value: Responsible Generosity—we value faithfully sharing our gifts to help ministry thrive

PM. O most Creative God, ever bringing me to new life.

PR. O most Powerful God, empowering me for life's journey.

A: O Beloved Lord, loving me as I am.

C. My soul proclaims the wonder of your fellowship. My spirit weeps within me for joy. My heart spills out with tears of delight.

PM. They mix with joy and I tremble feeling totally claimed by Your love. Amen.

Reading: Tom Cabansky

Matthew 26:26-29

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus 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."

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Opening Song "Lead Me to the Cross" (9am)

*Savior I come Quiet my soul,
remember
Redemption's hill Where Your blood was spilled
For my ransom
Everything I once held dear I count it all as lost*

*Lead me to the cross Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself I belong to You
Lead me,
lead me to the cross*

*You were as I Tempted and trialed
Human
The word became flesh Bore my sin and death
Now you're risen
Everything I once held dear I count it all as lost
Lead me to the cross Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself I belong to You
Lead me,
lead me to the cross*

*To your heart
To your heart
Lead me to your heart
Lead me to your heart*

*Lead me to the cross Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself I belong to You
Lead me,
lead me to the cross*

*Lead me to the cross Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself I belong to You
Lead me, lead me to the cross*

Litany and Song of Praise (9am)

A. Holy One, you are shelter and strength for those in distress.

C. When loved ones experience pain and suffering...When illness, aging, or chronic pain diminish our joy...When doubts arise and confusion fills our minds...

A. Holy One, you are shelter and strength for those on the journey

C. When others fail us or refuse to forgive us for our failings...When we stumble and stray from the path of goodness...When death separates us from those we love dearly...

A. Holy One, you are shelter and strength for those living life

C. When financial problems threaten our security...When things do not go the way we planned...When depression or loneliness return again and again...When broken relationships have not been mended...

A. Holy One, you are shelter and strength for those living your grace

C. When our faith strengthens and gives us courage...When the precious gift of life is recognized and appreciated...When unexpected kindness and caring comes our way...When optimism stirs in our heart and springtime returns...

A. Holy one, you are shelter and strength as we follow your lead to the cross and beyond

C. When the peace of Christ calms our anxiety and softens our sadness...When we realize that our loving presence can make a difference...When the joy of Easter quietly permeates our heart...Amen.

Song of Praise “*In Christ Alone*” (9am)

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand '
Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand '
Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray...Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing 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. C. Amen

Inspired by the Word

Readings

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

2 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming.
It is close at hand—

² a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and blackness.
Like dawn spreading across the mountains
 a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was in ancient times
 nor ever will be in ages to come.

¹² “Even now,” declares the LORD,
 “return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

¹³ Rend your heart
 and not your garments.
Return to the LORD your God,
 for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
 and he relents from sending calamity.

¹⁴ Who knows? He may turn and relent
 and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings
 for the LORD your God.

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion,
 declare a holy fast,
 call a sacred assembly.

¹⁶ Gather the people,
 consecrate the assembly;
bring together the elders,
 gather the children,
 those nursing at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room
 and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,
 weep between the portico and the altar.
Let them say, “Spare your people, LORD.
 Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,
 a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,
 “Where is their God?”

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin^[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Paul's Hardships

³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Verse

C: *Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.*

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Giving to the Needy

6 "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Prayer

⁵ "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Fasting

¹⁶ “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Children’s Sermon – Greg Silliman

Sermon—Rev. A.N. Mary Adelsberger

Song: "To the Table" (9am)

*Hear the voice of love that's calling
There's a chair that waits for you
And a Friend who understands
Everything you're going through*

*But you keep standing at a distance
In the shadow of your shame
There's a light of hope that's shining
Won't you come and take your place?*

*And bring it all to the table
There's nothing He ain't seen before
For all your sin, all your sorrow, and your sadness
There's a Savior and He calls
Bring it all to the table*

*He can see the weight you carry
The fears that hold your heart
But through the cross you've been forgiven
You're accepted as you are*

*So bring it all to the table
There's nothing He ain't seen before
For all your trials, all your worries, and your burdens
There's a Savior and He calls
Bring it all to the table*

*Bring it all
You can bring it all
And come on in, take your place
There's no one whose turned away
All you sinners, all you saints
Come right in and find your grace
Come right in and find your grace*

*and bring it all to the table
There's nothing He ain't seen before
For all your sin, all your sorrows and your sadness
There's a Savior and He calls
Bring it all to the table*

The Apostle's Creed

A: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I Believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of People

A: Drawn near to God as children and heirs of Christ's promise, we pray for all people of God, for our nation and our world, and for those in need. [*A brief silence.*]

A: For those in our Community of Faith: Bishop Beaudoin and staff, Bishop Eaton and staff, Memorial Church Staff, Student Katie Leslie, Intern Rebecca West-Estell, Monroe Corridor Parish, Hope Learning Academy teachers and families and all teachers and students in all schools, and for faith communities throughout the world. Help us to see ourselves in our neighbors, especially those who differ from us, and draw us together in common service to those who are hungry, poor, and oppressed. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: For the well-being of the earth as we begin another year entrusted with its care. Give us lively imaginations to see ways to conserve its limited resources, harness its renewable energies, and conform ourselves to its natural goodness. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: For peace among nations, for peace in our homes, and for peace in our hearts. Urge us to cry out at injustice and inequality among your people until vindication comes and righteousness prevails. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: For our military personnel: Ryan Woods, Henry Kozak, Dustin Pawloski, and Reid Leslie; guard their lives and keep them safe, Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: For our **homebound**: Dotty Sauer, Claudia Sauer, Bob Rank, Kathy Schoembs, Sam Schlegel, Phyllis Ballas, Joanne Hummel, Doris Buchholz (hospice care), Pat Reiber; and those who are in need of **healing**: William Claucherty, Angie Carricer, Seneca, Sara Scholl, Kent Seagart, Donald Dotson, Jess Weber, Afaf Barakat, Brenda Facey, Katie Maly, Sheila MacKay Davidson, Marcene Jackson, Leslie Bean, Don Gurwell, Dave Gilbert, Char Bachmayer, Fred Schaefer, Michael Curtis, and all suffering with Covid 19; Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: For those grieving the loss of friends and family; especially the families of Lee Royce (Sheri Poole's father), June Weitz (Codi Calcamuggio's great-grandmother), John Vance, Oscar Bunch, Walt Carlson. Only you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Keep us in union with all your saints, and bring us with them to the joyous feast of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world. **C: Amen.**

Meal declaring Jesus' presence among us

The Great Thanksgiving

PM: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

PM: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

PM: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Words of Institution .

PM: 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 in memory of Me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying; This is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in memory of Me.

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Lamb of God

C: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

Prayer

A: We give you thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In Your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sent into the world for sharing

Announcements

Blessing

PM. The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. C. Amen.

Song: "Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone" (9am)

*Amazing grace How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found was blind, but now I see*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed*

*My chains are gone I've been set free
my God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains unending love, Amazing grace*

*The Lord has promised good to me His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures*

*My chains are gone I've been set free
my God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains unending love, Amazing grace*

*My chains are gone I've been set free
my God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains unending love, Amazing grace*

*The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow the sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine*

Dismissal

A.Go in peace. Christ is with you. **C. Thanks be to God**