

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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Here I Stand—Lent with Martin Luther **Part I: Standing in Suffering** **Ash Wednesday** **March 1, 2017**

The Lenten journey begins with humble repentance and forgiveness from our gracious God. The Lord's wrath on the self-righteous will be fierce. Thanks be to God that He has worked righteousness for our salvation in Jesus Christ.

Before Service Prayer: We come with a deep sense of our guilt before You, O Lord, and plead nothing but Your mercy, and the love of Jesus, our Savior. You know that we are dust, and have no power of ourselves. We have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. But God, we return, confessing our sins, and renouncing them, praying for grace to be faithful and true. With the help of Your Holy Spirit may we no more be led by our passions and evil desires. Through Your Word and Sacraments help us in this season of Lent to overcome our failings, and give all our powers of mind and body to You for Your service. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

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Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: "Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes"



1 Sun - day's palms are Wednes - day's ash - es as an -
2 We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of -
3 We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to



oth - er Lent be - gins; thus we kneel be - fore our
fens - es to for - give, have not lis - tened to their
proof of hu - man need; and our lack of un - der -



Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our sins.
trou - bles, nor have cared just how they live,
stand - ing dem - on - strates our in - ner greed;



We have marred bap - tis - mal pledg - es, in re -
we are jeal - ous, proud, im - pa - tient, we have
we have wast - ed earth's re - sourc - es, want and



bel - lion gone a - stray; now, re - turn - ing,
loved too much our things; may con - fes - sions
suf - f'ring we've ig - nored; come and cleanse us,



seek for - give - ness, grant us par - don, Lord, this day!
for our fail - ings be our Len - ten of - fer - ings.
then re - store us, make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

Remain Seated

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Instructions for the Beginning of Lent

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.

The Lenten banner is hung.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Confession of Sins

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: We confess to You, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The past pride, hypocrisy and impatience in our lives

C: We confess to You, O Lord.

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

C: We confess to You, O Lord.

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

C: We confess to You, O Lord.

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

C: We confess to You, O Lord.

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

C: We confess to You, O Lord.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with Your will,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let Your anger depart from us.

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

P: 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 true faith and at the last be received by Him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Evening:

P: Almighty and merciful God, You never despise what You have made and always forgive those who turn to You. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain Your full and gracious pardon; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: **ISAIAH 53:1-3** (500 years before the arrival of the Messiah, Isaiah describes a Messiah who would stand in suffering.)

¹ Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
² He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him,
nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.
³ He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem. (NIV 2011)

Choir Selection: “Dust and Ashes” (Choir sings the verses; Congregation joins in on the refrain after the 2nd & 3rd verse.)



The image shows three staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, G major. The lyrics are: "Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the desert sands, bring us living water, Holy Spirit, come." The first two staves correspond to the first two verses, and the third staff corresponds to the refrain.

Verse 1: Dust and ashes touch our face, mark our failure and our falling. Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow, take us as disciples, washed and wakened by Your calling.

Refrain (Sung by the choir)

Verse 2: Dust and ashes soil our hands—greed of market, pride of nation. Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow, as we pray and struggle through the meshes of oppression.

Refrain (Sung by the choir and congregation)

Verse 3: Dust and ashes choke our tongue in the wasteland of depression. Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow, through all gloom and grieving to the paths of resurrection.

Refrain (Sung by the choir and congregation)

The Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:21-25 (Christ suffered for you.)

²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in His mouth.”

²³ When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He Himself bore our sins” in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by His wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (NIV 2011)

Verse of the Day: (Sung by the Choir) Return to the Lord Your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13 RSV)

Stand

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 26:46-56 (Jesus stands firm in the face of suffering.)

⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

⁴⁷ While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the Man; arrest Him.” ⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

⁵⁰ Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him. ⁵¹ With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁵² “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

⁵⁵ In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture Me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest Me. ⁵⁶ But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled. (NIV 2011)

Sit

Hymn of the Day: CW 121 “Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”

The Sermon Text: Matthew 26:46-56

The Sermon Theme: Standing at the Cross—Standing in Suffering

The Offering

The Prayer of the Evening

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Christ, have mercy upon us.

P: Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, hear us.

C: O Christ, graciously hear us.

P: O God the Father in heaven; O God the Son, Redeemer of the world; O God the Holy Spirit:

C: Have mercy upon us.

P: O God, who takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live;

who called Adam and Eve after their fall to the acknowledgment of their fault and to true repentance;

who forgave the sins of Your disobedient people at the prayer of Moses;

who put away David’s transgression when he confessed and repented of his sin;

who spared the Ninevites when they repented in sackcloth and with fasting;

who came into the world to save sinners;

who received tax collectors and sinners and ate with them;

who forgave the many sins of Mary Magdalene;
who in mercy looked upon Peter who denied You;
who moved him to confess his fault and to shed tears of penitence;
who on the cross promised Paradise to the penitent thief;
who bore our sins in Your own body on the tree;
who was bruised for our iniquities;
who gives time and place for the repentance of our sins;
who rebukes and chastens those whom You love;
who are not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance;
who came to seek and to save the lost;
who after true repentance remembers our sins no more:

C: Be gracious, and spare us, O Lord.

P: From all evil; from all sin; from a sudden and wicked death; by Your Baptism and Your holy fasting; by Your toils and griefs; by Your blood which was shed for the forgiveness of our sins; in the day of tribulation and anguish and of Your awful judgment:

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

P: We sinners ask You to hear us:

that it may please You to bring us to true repentance;
that, condemning ourselves, we may escape condemnation;
that we may in due time bring forth worthy fruit of penitence;
that as we have let our bodies and our minds become servants of uncleanness and sin, so we may now yield them to You as servants of righteousness and holiness;
that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we may live sober, righteous, and godly lives;
that we may exercise self-control on our bodies and bring them into submission to Your will;
that sin may not be our master;
that we do not let ourselves be instruments of unrighteousness;
that as true members of the body of Christ we crucify our flesh with its passions and lusts;
that all bitterness and wrath and anger be put away from us;
that we may never despise the riches of Your goodness, patience, and long-suffering;
that we may count all things as loss but for Christ;
that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness;
that through the many tribulations of this world You would grant us entrance into the kingdom of God;
that it may please You graciously to hear us:

C: O Son of God, we ask You to hear us.

P: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: Spare us, O Lord.

P: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: Graciously hear us, O Lord.

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The image shows a musical score for 'The Lord's Prayer' in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a 'G' in a box, indicating the key signature. The lyrics are: 'Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your will be done on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours now and for - ev - er. A - men.'

G Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Lead us
not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from
e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are
yours now and for - ev - er. A - men.

P: Almighty God, we are dust and to dust we shall return, yet even in ashes and dust there is hope. Marked with the sign of the cross in our baptism and bearing the good fruit of repentance and faith, we pray You not to forsake Your children but to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that the words which we have spoken may be accompanied by actions of faith and repentance, now and throughout this holy season of Lent; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: **CW 320 “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”**

Announcements

Thank you to the Bauers for serving the meal tonight before the service.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to send kids from our church to Training Camp. If you wish, you can place a gift for this purpose in the offering plate. Simply mark it “Camp.” New Life anticipates having several children attend Camp this year.

Next Wednesday, Pastor Jack Kelly from Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Zion will be our guest pastor. The theme for next week is “Lent With Luther—Standing Through Persecution.” The meal is an opportunity to spend time with fellow members and also an opportunity to spend some time with Rev. Kelly, who like the rest of the pastors in the circuit, has served his church for 20 years.

The ashes used in tonight’s service were rendered from the palm fronds used by the children on Palm Sunday, 2016. They were burned yesterday. Olive oil is added to the ashes to make the ashes stick to the banner.

After the service tonight, a brief Sunday school teachers meeting will be held in the café.

The Tone Chime Choir will rehearse in the chapel after the service this evening.