

Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion with Corporate Confession & Individual Absolution

17 February Anno † Domini 2021 – 6:30 pm

Receiving the Lord's Supper at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

The Lord's Supper is received by members of this congregation in the confession and confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our union with Him and one another.

As you prepare to receive this blessed gift, you may find it helpful to refer to Martin Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" on pages 329-330 in the hymnal.

*Communicants at this altar are Christians who share the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace and confess the truths of the Christian faith in full agreement with the members of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Out of love for one another and to exercise Christian responsibility toward our brothers and sisters in Christ, we ask that all who desire to receive the Lord's body and blood at our altar but are not members of this congregation, speak with our Pastor **prior** to the Service.*

*See Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:17-34

The Divine Service

Hymn

LSB 419 – Savior, When In Dust to Thee

Invocation (*stand*)

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Psalm

Psalms 51

Litany for Ash Wednesday

P O Lord, **C** have mercy.

P O Christ, **C** have mercy.

P O Lord, **C** have mercy.

P O Christ, **C** hear us.

P God the Father in heaven,

C have mercy.

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C have mercy.

P God the Holy Spirit,

C have mercy.

P Be gracious to us.

C Spare us, good Lord.

P Be gracious to us.

C Help us, good Lord.

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony

and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C Help us, good Lord.

P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C Help us, good Lord.

P We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

P To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in our need of prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all;

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and to graciously hear our prayers;

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

P O God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Confessional Address & Corporate Confession

P Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

P I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before you, my brothers and sisters, ... In the Name and for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

C God Almighty knows your sin, and for the sake of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, He grants you pardon, forgiveness, He releases of all your sins, and promises His Spirit to strengthen you and give you faith. Amen.

☞ I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault. God's Holy Law shows that my sin is not only outward, the words I speak and the things I do, but my sin is also inward. I see the thoughts of my heart where there is secret pride and evil desire, anger, hatred, malice and many other sins some of which only God knows. God's Law rightly condemns me as guilty and deserving only of His wrath and punishment. I desire to do better, but I do not find the strength in myself to make it so. Therefore I pray to God Almighty to have mercy on me, to forgive my guilt, to release me from sin's power, to increase my faith, to give me the strength to change my life and to carry me to everlasting life. In the Name, and for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

Individual Absolution

LSB 608 – Lord, to you I make Confession

LSB 609 – Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 610 – Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Absolution will be applied individually to each penitent.

Those desiring to receive Christ's forgiveness and blessing will be ushered forward. To maintain "social distancing," family groups should alternate sides when coming to the rail.

When the rail has emptied from the previous group, please step forward and kneel to receive forgiveness according to the following conversation:

P Who are you, and what do you seek?

R **I am a sinner in need of forgiveness.**

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my own, but is God's own forgiveness worked for you through Christ Jesus? **R** **Yes.**

P Let it be done for you as you believe. ... in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **R** **Amen!**

After receiving the absolution, each penitent may return to their seat. When the last person leaves the rail, the congregation shall rise and the service continues with the Salutation and the Collect.

Salutation and Collect	<i>p.189</i>
Readings	<i>Joel 2:12-19, 2 Peter 1:2-11, Matthew 6:1-6,16-21</i>
Nicene Creed	<i>p. 191</i>
Hymn of the Day	<i>LSB 607 – From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee</i>
Sermon	
Offertory	<i>p.192</i>
The Prayer of the Church, Lord's Prayer & Collect	
Preparation for Holy Communion	<i>p.194 ff</i>
Distribution	
	<i>LSB 563 – Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness</i>
	<i>LSB 560 – Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed</i>
Nunc Dimittis	<i>LSB 199</i>
Thanksgiving	<i>LSB 200</i>
Salutation and Benedicamus	
Benediction	<i>LSB 202</i>