

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-6:10 ¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ⁶¹As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” Look, now is the acceptable time; look, 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: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶in 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 look – 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.

P: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: “Tree Of Life” *(stand as you are able)*

**Verse 1: Tree of Life and awesome myst’ry, in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist’ry, still you rise with ev’ry morn, still you rise with ev’ry morn.**

**Verse 2: We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word;
ev’ry person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord, wears the body of our Lord.**

**Verse 3: Christ, you lead and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be;
one with you in joy and sorrow, we the river, you the sea, we the river, you the sea.**

**General Verse: Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of our Lord; give new strength to our believing,
give us faith to live your word, give us faith to live your word**

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:51-62 ⁵¹As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” ⁵⁵But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then he and his disciples went to another village. ⁵⁷As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” ⁵⁹He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” ⁶²Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

P: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God.**

Homily: Pastor Eric Hanson

Hymn of the Day: “In Christ Alone” CCLI Lic. *(you may be seated)*

Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online.

If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving.html>.

**Vs 1: 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.**

**Vs 2: 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.**

**Vs 3: No guilt in life, no fear in death; this is the power of Christ in me.
From life’s first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny.**

**Vs. 4: No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
‘Til he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I’ll stand!**

Offertory Response: “Give Thanks” W&P 41

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son & now let the weak say, “I am strong” Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.

Offertory Prayer: P: Let us pray.

C: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others. Through our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.

Invitation to Lent:

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus’ passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God’s mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent – self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Confession of Sin *(Please stand as you are able)*

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God & of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection & self-examination.*

P: Most holy and merciful God,

C: we confess to you & to one another, & before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned against you, ourselves, & our neighbors in thought, word, & deed, by what we have done & 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, O God.**

P: Often we have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. Often we have not been true to the mind of Christ.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, & our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Restore us, O God, & let your anger depart from us. **C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Imposition of Ashes & Hymns: *All are invited to receive the imposition of ashes, a physical mark of our penitence before God. Ashes will be received as ushers invite rows forward from the back of the sanctuary to the front.*

“Remember That You Are Dust” ACS #919 **Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

“Jesus Remember Me” ELW #616

“You Are Holy” ELW #525

“Jesus Loves Me” ELW #595

The Prayers:

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

God of our journeys, we pray for the church as the season of Lent begins. Guide your people in spiritual practices and families in preparation for baptism. Strengthen communities of faith in discipleship and witness for the sake of the gospel. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for the earth. As you once brought forth life from the dust, breathe healing and renewal into all places where ecosystems are stretched and strained. Nurture the nature’s cycles of life, death, and rebirth. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, we pray for an end to wars and occupations that reduce communities to ash. Turn leaders away from fearful decision-making, and lead all people into the justice and compassion of your reign. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the suffering, we pray for all who live with any pain. Comfort people living with chronic or terminal illnesses, addictions, anxiety, and grief. We pray that you would especially bring healing to, especially Keith Brown, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Shawn Fredrixon, Marc Bode, Harlan Reese, Gage Miller, Alex Stehr, Perry Fitzgerald, Tanya Bakken, Nicole Anderson, Henry Strauss, Diane Krenke, Steve Pabst, Bob Eppen, Chase Hanson & the Family of Austin “Randy” Holst. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, we pray for those who accompany the dying: for first responders, health care and hospice workers, chaplains, and those who facilitate burials of the dead. Sustain them as they serve their neighbors in life and death with dignity and care. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cross, we give thanks for those who have completed their lives on earth & have returned to you. Strengthen us with the promise that within the ashes of death are the seeds of resurrection life. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace: P: The peace of the Lord be with you always C: **And also with you**

The Great Thanksgiving: (*please stand*) P: The Lord be with you C: **And also with you** P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.** P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give Him thanks & praise.**

Words of Institution

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.

Meal and Hymns: (*you may be seated*) All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine. Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.

"No Not One" Vs 1: **There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus. No, not one! no, not one!**
None else could heal all our soul's diseases. **No, not one! no, not one!**

Refrain: Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done;
There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus. **No, not one! no, not one!**

Vs 2: **No friend like Him is so high and holy. No, not one! no, not one!**
And yet no friend is so meek and lowly. **No, not one! no, not one!** [Refrain]

Vs 3: **There's not an hour that He is not near us. No, not one! no, not one!**
No night so dark but His love can cheer us. **No, not one! no, not one!** [Refrain]

Vs 4: **Was e'er a gift like the Savior given? No, not one! no, not one!**
Will he refuse us a home in heaven? **No, not one! no, not one!** [Refrain]

"Nothing But The Blood" Vs 1: **What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;**
What can make me whole again? **Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

Chorus: Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, **Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

Vs 2: **For my pardon, this I see, Nothing but the blood of Jesus;**
For my cleansing this my plea, **Nothing but the blood of Jesus.** [Chorus]

Vs 3: **Nothing can for sin atone, Nothing but the blood of Jesus;**
Naught of good that I have done, **Nothing but the blood of Jesus.** [Chorus]

Vs 4: **This is all my hope and peace, Nothing but the blood of Jesus;**
This is all my righteousness, **Nothing but the blood of Jesus.** [Chorus]

Post Communion Prayer: P: Let us pray.

C: **God of our Table, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our own homes, that your liberating love might go forth from this place into our own homes and community. Through our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.**

Blessing: (*stand as you are able*) P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, & claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. May the Lord bless you & keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you & be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor & give you + peace. C: **Amen**

Dismissal: P: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude (*The assembly leaves in silence*)

Ash
Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust...
and to dust you shall return.*

~Ecclesiastes 3:20

St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson March 5, 2025 • 6:45PM Ash Wednesday Worship

Prelude (*The assembly gathers in reflective silence.*)

Debbi St. John, Pianist/Organist

Greeting: (*Please stand as you are able*)

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. C: **Come Holy Spirit, Come.**

Prayer of the Day: P: Let us Pray,

C: **Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth and you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Guide us through these Forty Day bearing the mark of ashes. Bless our journey through the desert of Lent as we remember our mortality and seek New Life. We know you are rich in forgiveness and abounding in steadfast love. Guide our steps this Lent, so that we might find greater fulfillment in your promises and better serve others with hearts that reflect you. Amen.**

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (*you may be seated*)

¹ 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 a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. ¹² Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ rend 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. ¹⁴ Who 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? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather 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. ¹⁷ Between 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?'"

P: The word of the Lord C: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 51:1-17

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

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

L: ³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

C: 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.**

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

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

L: ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

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

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

C: ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

L: ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C: ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

L: ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

C: ¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

L: ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

C: ¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

L: ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.