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Welcome to worship at . . .

## First Lutheran Church

Rev. William P. Schultz, Visiting Pastor

Curtis L. King, Organist

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

Announcements, Prelude, and Candlelighting

### Call To Worship

- ¶ *The Lord is near you;*
- ¶ **On your lips and in your heart.**
- ¶ *If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,*
- ¶ **And believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**
- ¶ *Faith comes from what is heard,*
- ¶ **And what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

### Opening Hymn

*"The Glory of These Forty Days"*

#320

### The Prayer of the Day

An Ash Wednesday Reading . . . . . Genesis 3:1-19

*Silence*

*(go to insert)*

### Prayer of the Church

### The Celebration of Holy Communion

- ¶ *The Lord be with you*
- ¶ **And also with you.**
- ¶ *Lift up your hearts.*
- ¶ **We lift them to the Lord.**

## A Special Liturgy for the Imposition of Ashes

**L** *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

**C** **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**  
**Amen.**

**L** *Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation.*

**C** **But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us.**

**L** *Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under judgment, but to turn to him and live.*

**C** **As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.**

**L** *Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love – the discipline of Lent – help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins.*

**C** **We ask our Father for strength to preserve us in our Lenten discipline.**

*(Brief Silence)*

**L** *Most holy and merciful Father:*

**All:** **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**L** *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.**

**L** *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 your Holy Spirit.*

**C Have mercy on us, Lord.**

**L** *We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,*

**C We confess to you, Lord.**

**L** *Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,*

**C We confess to you, Lord.**

**L** *Our anger at our own frustrations, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,*

**C We confess to you, Lord.**

**L** *Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,*

**C We confess to you, Lord.**

**L** *Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend to the faith that is in us,*

**C We confess to you, Lord.**

**L** *Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,*

**C Accept our repentance, Lord.**

**L** *For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,*

**C Accept our repentance, Lord.**

**L** *For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,*

**C Accept our repentance, Lord.**

**L** *Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.*

**All: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

*(Brief Silence)*

## The Imposition of Ashes

*(Those who desire to receive ashes come forward before the altar, kneeling if they wish.)*

*(After all who desire ashes have received them, the Pastor leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.)*

- L** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
- C** That we may show forth your glory in the world.
- L** By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,
- C** Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

**L** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

The Lesson ..... 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:8a

### Theme Hymn

A mighty fortress is our God,  
A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
And wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
Has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

### Homily

The Word of God: Law and Gospel

*(Brief Silence)*

## Theme Hymn

God's Word is our great heritage  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way;  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant while time shall last  
Your Church may hold it fast  
Throughout all generations.

God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
They cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

## Offertory

*(The Offering is received and brought forward)*

## Offertory Prayer

**L** 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.

**C** Amen.

*(return to bulletin cover)*

**P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God*  
**C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**  
**P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn of praise:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
Lord God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

The Distribution

Post-Communion Blessing and Prayer

Benediction

Departing Hymn

*“Savior, When in Dust to You”*  
**#601**

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We thank you for worshiping with us this evening, and invite you to come back each Wednesday night during Lent to share in the saving power of God's Word. Tonight's bulletin cover is intended to serve as a holder for all the bulletins of our Lenten series. Each week we will be revisiting the "Chief Parts" of *Martin Luther's Small Catechism*. At the conclusion of all 8 services, these worship materials will provide a meditation guide for your continued study and review.

May God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his Light, and his Truth, and his Love now and forever.

## Enchiridion<sup>1</sup>

### THE SMALL CATECHISM of Dr. Martin Luther for Ordinary Pastors and Preachers

Several years before he put his own hand to the task, Luther had suggested to some of his friends that they prepare a catechism for the instruction of children. Finally Luther himself undertook to fill the need, impelled especially by dismay over the ignorance of the people whom he encountered when he visited parishes in Saxony during the fall of 1528. Before and after this visitation, as often in earlier years, Luther preached several series of sermons in Wittenberg on the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments, and he used these sermons as a basis for the preparation of his Large Catechism.

In December, 1528, while he was still working on the Large Catechism, Luther also began on the text of the Small Catechism. As they were finished, its original parts were printed on large charts, and about the middle of May, 1529, the completed Small Catechism was made available in an illustrated booklet. For this edition in book form Luther furnished a Preface at the beginning and the Table of Duties at the close. Other writings of Luther were later added, probably by the printers with or without Luther's consent: A Short Form for Marriage, A Short Form for Baptism, and the Litany.

Although prepared simultaneously and utilizing the same materials, the Small Catechism is not merely a condensation of the Large Catechism, nor is the Large Catechism simply an expansion of the Small Catechism. The tone is different, for there is not a trace in the Small Catechism of the Polemics which punctuate the Large, and the intended audience is different, for the Small Catechism was written for use in the households of plain people while the Large was addressed particularly to the clergy. The high esteem in which the Small Catechism was held is reflected in its incorporation in many church orders of the sixteenth century and in several early collections of confessional statements. To this day, it is the primary teaching tool for adolescent youths preparing to Confirm their Faith and Affirm their Baptismal vows.

<sup>1</sup>Greek: manual or handbook.