Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!

"Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice"

Ash Wednesday

February 17th, 2021

The Divine Service with Imposition of Ashes

Prelude ***"He Gave Me Beauty For Ashes" (Unknown Author)*** ***TOSB 58***

Pastor's Address

P: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope. Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

The attendees come forward to receive ashes on their foreheads.

P: Receive these Ashes to remind you that from dust you came to dust you shall return, and receive the sign of the Cross to remind you have been redeemed by Christ the Crucified and will rise again to eternal life.

After receiving the Ashes, each person shall return to their pew.

OPENING HYMN **SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO THEE** ***LSB 419, STS.1-3***

Text and tune: Public domain

(Congregation Stands)

EXHORTATION

P: Blesséd is the one whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is covered.

C: Blesséd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

P: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

P: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one whom trusts in the LORD.

C: Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Congregation reflects on the Word of God and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C; And also with you.

P: Let us pray; Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us a new heart that would lament our sins and acknowledge our wretchedness so that we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Congregation Sits)

A Reading from the Old Testament Book of Joel 2:12–19

R: "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make

not Your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD became jealous for His land and had pity on His people. The LORD answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

P: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

C: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Congregation Stands)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P: [Jesus said:] "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

PROFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN THE WORDS OF THE NICENE CREED

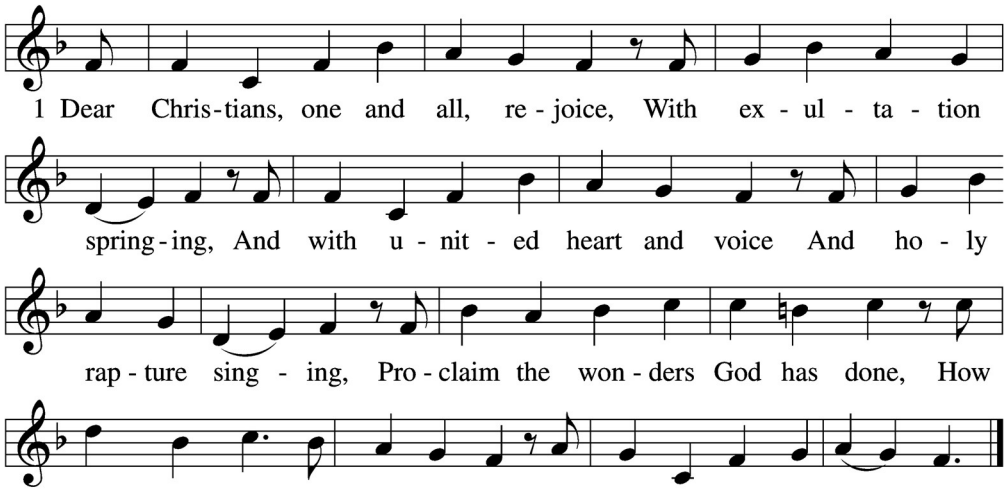
All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

(Congregation Sits)

SERMON HYMN DEAR CHRISTIANS ONE AND ALL REJOICE *LSB 556, STZ.1*



Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For _____ let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

(Congregation Stands)

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

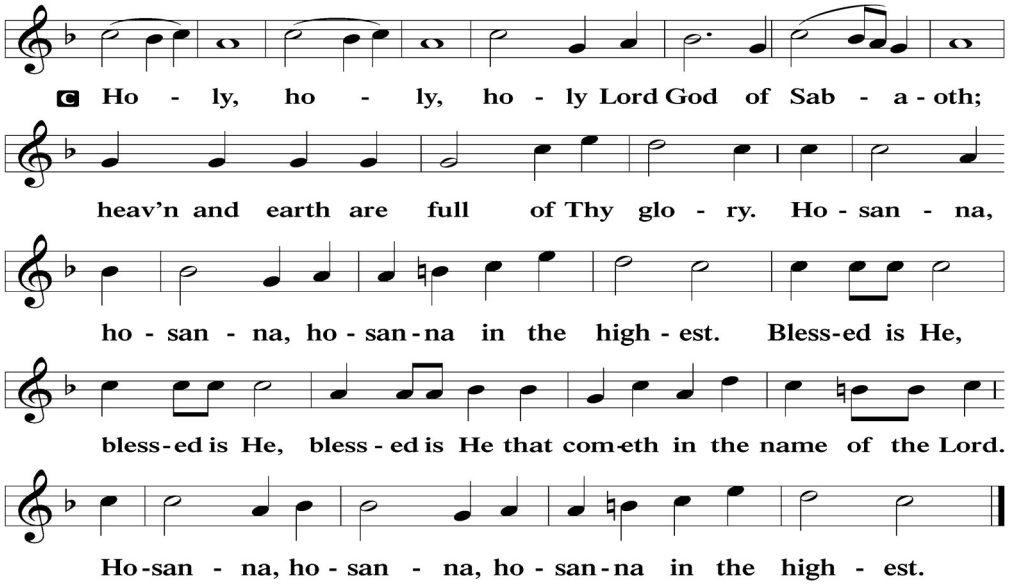
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed

hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Lord remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

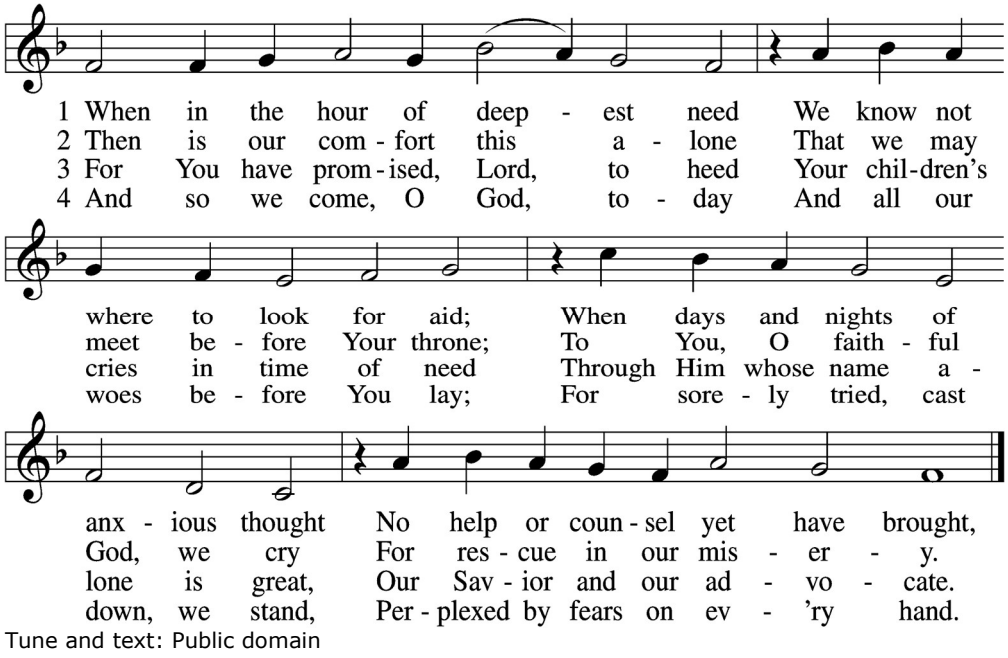
C: And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD) *LSB 198*

(Congregation Sits)

DISTRIBUTION *(please see our Communion policy on last page)*

COMMUNION HYMN WHEN IN THE HOUR OF DEEPEST NEED *LSB 615, STS.1-4*



Tune and text: Public domain

(Congregation Stands)

NUNC DIMITTIS *LSB 165*

C: O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace, for I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill, the glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son, all glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One; for as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding through all eternity.

THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C: and His mercy endures forever.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray,

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

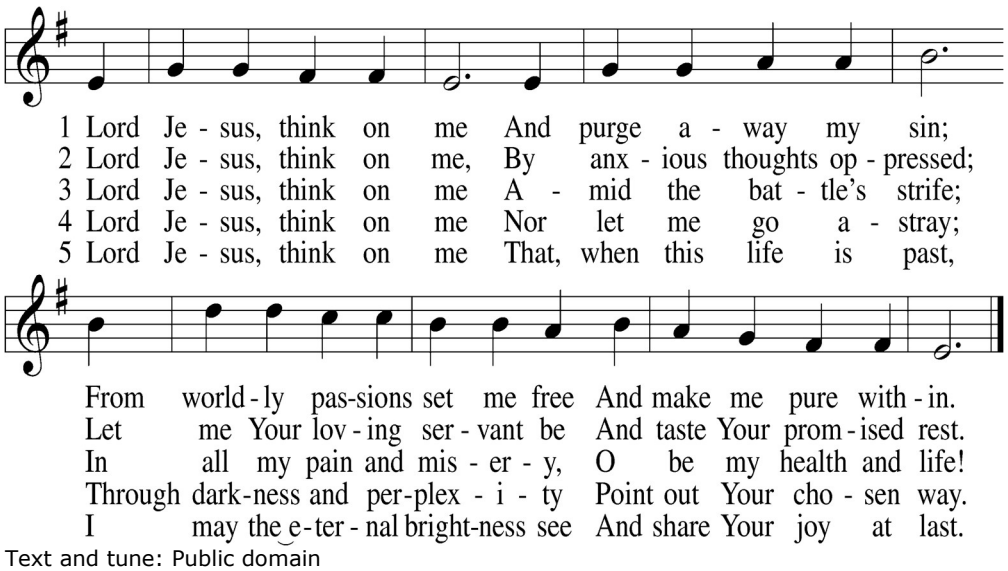
C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN LORD JESUS, THINK OF ME *LSB 610*



Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE *"THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS SAT" (by Nicolaus Herman)* *SLB 412*

Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

3501 E Chandler Blvd; Phoenix, AZ 85048

480-759-4047

www.FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Serving at Family of Christ

Pastor

Reverend Fred H Gerlach

Pastor@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Cell: 609-751-2546

Music Director

Inessa Leip

Music@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Church Office Administrator

Admin@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:
familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

2/17– 2/28

Today

6:00PM Ash Wednesday Service, with imposition of ashes.

Thursday

5:30PM Confirmation Class at the Church

Friday

6:30AM Men's Bible Study in Leviticus

Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship *(with communion)*;

11:00AM Bible Study on Large Catechism

Wednesday

6:00PM Mid-week Lenten Service

Sunday (2/28)

9:30AM Divine Worship *(with communion)*;

11:00AM Bible Study on Large Catechism

PLEASE NOTE*: Church Services and Bible Studies are currently offered in person and via Zoom. In-person meetings follow all CDC-recommended protocols and procedures.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer

Our Communion Policy

Family of Christ Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the ***Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod***. We celebrate the Lord's Supper in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord gives into your mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.