

ANNOUNCEMENTS

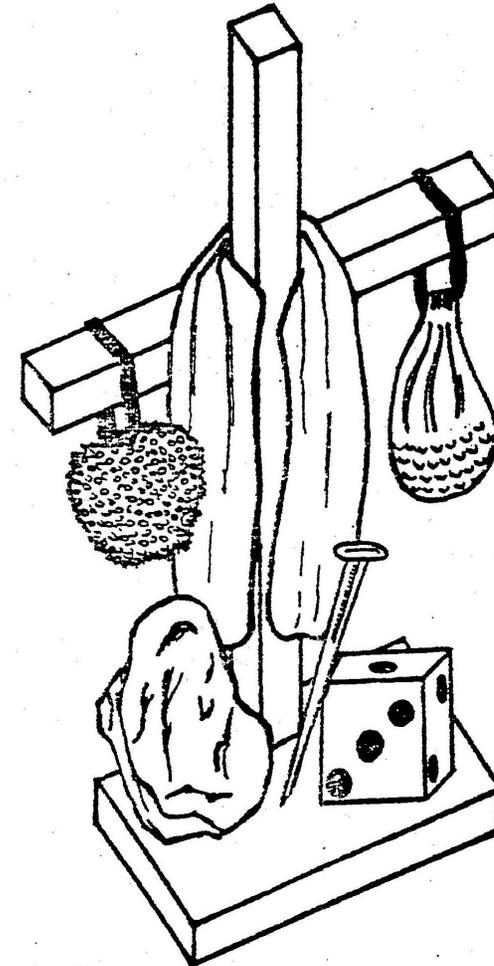
This evening begins our Lenten journey. Tonight we will be celebrating Holy Communion as well as the imposition of ashes for those who would like. Our theme this year is CROSS/PEACE. The message of our Lenten meditations will be on the peace we have been given through the cross of Christ. Each week a different object will be used as the source of the meditation. Our object tonight is a STONE. Jesus reminds us that He is never more than a "stone's throw" away.

Pick up your cross! During Lent each family at CTS will be given a wooden cross for the mid-week Lenten service. This cross is a gift from Pastor Steve and Mary to the congregation. Each Wednesday you will be given the object of the meditation to take home and put on your cross. A card along with a summary booklet will be given to explain each object and its message. We pray this Lenten season will be meaningful as we once again journey to Easter through the cross.

We thank the youth for serving our Lenten meal before worship this evening. Each week a different group will serve a free-will offering meal between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. After worship, dessert and refreshments will also be served.

We thank Marsha Burke for being our organist this evening.

**For He is our peace...
...through the CROSS**



CROSS/PEACE

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

ASH WEDNESDAY
Feb. 26, 2020

THEME: A STONE'S THROW

(* Please stand as you are able.)

* The Exhortation (Lenten journey invitation is extended)
(shared by Pastor Steve)

* Opening Hymn #99 "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

Examination of Conscience

(a reading from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *Life Together*)
(read by Emily Svitak)

"Just as I Am"

***Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

For the Ability to Forgive

P: Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to pray: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." In your name we are to repair the breach; we are to mend the broken; we are to welcome back the wanderer who returns.

C: Lord Jesus Christ, help me to understand that this power is your power, to be used for the sake of those for whom you died. Help me to understand that I cannot turn away from any who ask for forgiveness or need my forgiveness. Help me to overcome any hindrance that would keep me from sharing the fullness and the power of your saving and forgiving grace. I ask it in the power of your name. Amen.

***Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

* Prayers of the People

Offering

* Offertory "Create in me a clean heart" (LBW pg. 75)

***Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.***

The Lord's Supper

*Words of Institution

*Our Lord's Prayer

The Distribution

All baptized believers are welcome to the Lord's Table to receive the bread and wine, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

* Post-Communion Blessing and Prayer

* Closing Hymn #109 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

* Benediction

* Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Remember the cross.

C: Jesus is our peace and hope.

P: Thanks be to God.

C: Amen and amen!

First Lesson

Joel 2:12-19 (Old Testament pg. 847)

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 (New Testament pp. 181-182)

* Gospel Acclamation "Return to the Lord" (LBW pg. 63)

***Return to the Lord, your God,
for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.***

* Gospel

Luke 22:39-46 (New Testament pg. 87)

Message

"A Stone's Throw" (object: a stone)
Pastor Steve

Hymn Journey During Lent

#482 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

* Apostles' Creed (LBW pg. 65)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Confession

P: It is hard for us, O God, to confess our sins and not merely repeat well-worn phrases with which we try to cover our real guilt. We are sinners. Why is it so difficult for us to see this, Lord? Why are we so bothered with a few things we do wrong while we think nothing of our lack of trust in you? Why do we feel guilty when we do not live up to our own standards but hardly blush when we fail you? Why do we imitate those who are unholy instead of following the Christ? We must confess it is because we follow our own desires, because we are weak in the face of temptations, and without you we are nothing.

C: All I can do is plead mercy, O God. I cannot even hold up the honesty and fullness of my confession. All I can do is trust your love in Jesus Christ. I surely cannot trust my love for you or him. Hear me for the sake of Jesus Christ, who lived for me and died that in him I might live. Forgive me, Father! Forgive me even this, my poor confession. I need your forgiveness for Christ's sake. Amen.

***Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

For Acceptance of Self

P: Father, teach us to trust the Spirit you have breathed into us. Give us the grace to believe your Word, by which we are made your children. Help us to understand that we belong to you, even though we are undeserving of your love. Help us to see your judgment and mercy in the suffering and death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Cause us to accept again the new life in Christ which you have given us by faith. Enable us to live without despair and without pride. Lead us to know with joy that you accept us as whole human beings.

C: Father, teach me one more thing. Show me that in this new life you give, I no longer have to build walls of fear to protect myself from others. Help me to live cheerfully and generously, so that others may receive you through Christ's Word, and work in me and begin to live in you. Bless me and keep me for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

For Acceptance of Others

P: Forgive us, Father, for our unwillingness to share your gift of life with others. Our eyesight is so often faulty. We do not see others as you see them. We judge by our own standards and reject those who do not measure up. Our hearing is faulty, too. We listen to those who can help us, but do not hear those who need us.

C: Father, you see me through the eyes of Jesus Christ and accept me for his sake. You hear me and know that I need your forgiveness and mercy. Even so, Father, teach me your way of seeing and hearing your people in whatever circumstance I find them. Give me a full measure of understanding and compassion, so that my actions and words will reflect the fatherly love and mercy you have given me. Amen.

*Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

For Personal Reflection

P: Lord of our lives, we know that our lives are not our own. By your death and resurrection you made us your own. Help us to live under your direction, always ready to hear the call, "Follow Me"; always aware of your presence; always knowing that we have received the gift of your Spirit; always living so that others may receive your love and mercy through us.

C: It is not easy to ask for these things, Lord, because I know I have much to give up. I can no longer pretend that my life is my own. My prayer is my surrender to your care and direction. I want to follow, Lord, but it is very hard. I will get very tired. I will make selfish mistakes. I will fail time and again. I will fall. Show me again that there is love and forgiveness and mercy in your hand. Use me in spite of my reluctance, doubt and disobedience. Pour into me your good Spirit, so that I am not afraid to follow and fall and follow again. Amen.

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

Imposition of Ashes

*The ashes symbolize our mourning for our sins.
The sign of the cross symbolizes cleansing and renewal,
and points to the gift of forgiveness that God gives in Jesus Christ.*

P: Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Those who wish to receive ashes are invited to come forward at this time.

Absolution

P: The Lord Jesus hears your cry. He declares to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: We are Lenten people.

C: And "Lord, have mercy" is our cry.

*Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, turn our hearts toward you and bring us to repentance. Through your great mercy, grant us clean hearts and renew in us a right spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.