LCC MISSION:
Worship in Jesus’s Name
Grow in God’s Word
Share the Love of Jesus

TO OUR FIRST TIME WORSHIPPERS, WELCOME! We are glad you are here today. Please join us again to worship and praise God!

WELCOME CARDS are located in the pew pockets. We’d love to know that you’ve joined us today. Complete the card and drop it in the offering plate.

WE PRACTICE OPEN COMMUNION here at Lutheran Church of the Cross, affirming the real presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus’ body and blood are really present in the bread and the wine. White grape juice is available if preferred, and gluten-free wafers are available at the pastor’s station. Non-communing children and adults may come forward for a blessing.

THE CHURCH NURSERY is staffed and available for infants and toddlers during worship. The nursery is located to the right of the sanctuary steps. Look for the nursery flag. Please know that children are encouraged to stay for worship if they are able, and there are clipboards with activity sheets available.

PRAYER REQUESTS to be included in our weekly prayer chain can be made on the “welcome cards” found in the pew pockets. You may use the same card to update your contact information. Hand the card to an usher or place the card in the offering plate.

Worship Leaders Today
The Rev. William R. Stenke, Pastor
Assisting Minister: Marilyn Hamann
Accompanist: Zlatina Asenova
Soloist: Bev Christofel
Chancel Choir
Altar Guild: Linda Mathias
Usher: David Beck
Communion Servers: Lynn Cropper, Rita Sewell
Sound Booth: Chris Dailey, Jackson Dailey
Lector: Germaine Ramondetta
Prayers: Paul Erickson
Bulletin Team: Lynn Cropper, Marsha Schultz

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Ash Wednesday Order of Worship

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Today is the beginning of the season of Lent, a time to examine the brokenness in our lives and the ways in which we have separated ourselves from God and others. In doing so, Lent becomes a time of refocusing our spiritual journey by walking in Jesus’ footsteps. It is a time for growth and hope.

ENTER IN SILENCE

TIME OF MEDITATION

SONG

“Rock of Ages”  
ELW 623 v. 1, 2

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
2 Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law’s demands;
   let the water and the blood, from thy side which flowed,
   be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Prayer

READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
Pew Bible pg. 831

RESPONSE sung

“Rock of Ages”  
ELW 623 v. 3

Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.
*SENDING LITANY AND SONG  cont’d.

P Have mercy on us, O God.
C Forgive us for using our freedom to focus on ourselves.
P With your steadfast love, wipe away our wrongs.
C Make us new again as only you can do.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we’ll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

P God so loved the world that while we were yet sinners, Jesus Christ was given to
die for us. Because of Jesus our sins are forgiven. It is God’s amazing love through
the power of the Holy Spirit that allows us newness of life. Know that your sins are
forgiven. Return to God who welcomes us each with open arms of love.
C Amen.
P God has chosen you and called you to full and abundant life. God is merciful and
has chosen to forgive you. You are marked with your own commitment and those
of our beloved community. It is written on your head; it is written on your heart.
Go in peace, walking in the light and love of our Lord Jesus.
C Amen.

*THE DISMISSAL

A May God, who promises to forgive us, now make us strong for these days ahead.
May Jesus lead us, as we grow in our discipleship. And may the Spirit drive us into
the wilderness and purify our souls of all that separates us from God.
P And may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be
with us and remain with us always.
C Thanks be to God.

(Leave in silence.)

READING 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Pew Bible pg. 1056

RESPONSE sung “Rock of Ages” ELW 623 v. 4

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

*GOSPEL READING Matthew 6:1-6,16-21 Pew Bible pg. 883-884

SERMON Pastor Will Stenke

*SONG “Change My Heart, O God” ELW 801

**CONFESSION**

Based on Psalm 51 from the Message translation

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

My transgressions are like a yoke about my neck, fastened by the hand of the Lord. They weigh so heavily upon me that my strength is gone.

When we lift our hands in prayer to God in heaven, we should offer him our hearts and say, “We have sinned! We have rebelled against you!” You are kind, God! Please have pity on me.

You are always merciful! Please wipe away my sins. Wash me clean from all of my sin and guilt.

I know about my sins, and I cannot forget my terrible guilt.

You are really the one I have sinned against. I have disobeyed you and have done great wrong. So it is right and fair for you to correct and punish me. I have sinned and done wrong since the day I was born.

But you want complete honesty, so teach me true wisdom.

Wash me with hyssop until I am clean and whiter than snow. Let me be happy and joyful!

You crushed my bones,

Now let them celebrate. Turn your eyes from my sin and cover my guilt.

Create pure thoughts in me and make me faithful again. Don’t chase me away from you or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Amen. Let it be so.

INTRODUCTION TO THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Ash Wednesday invites us to come back to … attentiveness to God in our lives.

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, sustained by this meal and the assurance of your grace, may we focus on your mercy and focus our hearts on your Son’s Passion, in whose name we pray,

Amen.

**SENDING LITANY AND SONG**

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey; I’ll tell ev’rybody about you wherever I go: You alone are our life and our peace and our love. Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I’ll praise you as long as I journey. May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you. May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song. Lord Jesus, I’ll praise you as long as I journey.

The journey is long.

We have traveled far from our center.

Step by step we turn towards the one who loves us deeply.

We come just as we are with broken hearts and tears of sorrow.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant, to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears. For you saved me by giving your body and blood. As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

(Litany continues on the next page)
THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward in a line before the altar.
Please return to your seat after receiving the ashes on your forehead for quiet reflection.

SOLO

Bev Christofel, soloist

HYMN

“Lamb of God, Your Only Son” ELW 336

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words "Hear us as we lift our prayers to you."
Please respond with the words, “Lord have mercy.”

P  Hear us as we lift our prayers to you.
C  Lord have mercy.

Text: Willis Pierson, b. 1957
Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas
Text and music © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
*DECLARATION OF GOD’S PEACE
  P In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
  C In Jesus Christ, we all have peace.
  P As we begin the journey of Lent, let us greet one another with peace.
    The peace of the Lord be with you always.
  C And also with you.

OFFERING “The Prayer (with Lead Us, Lord)” Chancel Choir
By: Sager, Foster, Fettke

*OFFERING PRAYER
A Let us pray. God, our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these, your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
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 our thanks and 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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION
P Return to God with all your heart.
  Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION
Please know that the invitation to come to the table is the Lord’s and is extended to all. Our hope is that you will accept that invitation. Please follow the instructions of the ushers, as we receive our Lord’s meal.

MUSICAL OFFERING

COMMUNION HYMN “As the Deer”
As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart’s desire
And I long to worship you.

Chorus You alone are my strength my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart’s desire
And I long to worship you.

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye (Chorus)

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