

WE are Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (elca)

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WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY.

We welcome all visitors this morning to our service of Word and Sacrament. ALL are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Please know that at CELC this common meal is for all who feel moved to receive. This sacrament is God's gift to all, and is not tied to membership, doctrine or creed.

Ash Wednesday

12 noon & 6 pm

This Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

-Service of Word and Sacrament-

The Gathering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP PSALM 51:1-17

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GATHERING HYMN GATHER 283 *"Return to God"*

Refrain: Return to God with all your heart,
 the source of grace and mercy;
 come seek the tender faithfulness of God.

1. Now the time of grace has come,
the day of salvation; come and learn now the way of our God. (refrain)

Refrain: Return to God with all your heart,
 the source of grace and mercy;
 come seek the tender faithfulness of God.

2. I will take your heart of stone
and place a heart within you,
a heart of compassion and love. (refrain)

PASTORAL GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Word

READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

20bWe entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6:1As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, 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: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by 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 see—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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 512 *“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”*

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever 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 whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: PASTOR KIM

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 801 “CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD”

Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

CONFESSION OF SIN

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silent is kept for reflection and self-examination

Most holy and merciful God,
We confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

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. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut out ears 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. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.

“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.
All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Let us pray. With a gentle breath, blow from our lives the dust of sin, and make us your people again. Lift us from guilt, and shame, and regret, to repair all we’ve broken, and give us the gift of repentance. With lengthening days, stretch our hearts, too, to be ready for your risen life; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Those who desire to receive ashes please come forward. The ministers apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”]

SONGS DURING IMPOSITION OF ASHES GATHER 643 “ASHES”

1. We rise again from ashes, from good we’ve failed to do.
We rise again from ashes, to create ourselves anew.
If all our world is ashes, then must our lives be true,
An offering of ashes, an offering to you.
2. We offer you our failures, we offer you attempts,
the gifts not fully given, the dreams not fully dreamt.
Give our stumblings direction, give our visions wider view,
An offering of ashes, an offering to you.
3. Then rise again from ashes, let healing come to pain,
Though spring has turned to winter, the sunshine turned to rain.
The rain we’ll use for growing, and create the world anew
From an offering of ashes, an offering to you.
4. Thanks be to the Father, who made us like himself.

Thanks be to the Son, who saved us by his death.
Thanks be to the Spirit, who creates the world anew
From an offering of ashes, an offering to you.

ELW 773 *“PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND”*

1. Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Though the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light,
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand let I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
3. When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, refresh the hearts of your faithful people across all lands and generations. Rescue your church from affliction, hardship, or persecution. Remove all obstacles standing in the way of our witness to your grace, mercy, and everlasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, bless all wilderness places and all inhabitants of the land. Protect untouched ecosystems, satisfy parched places, and strengthen roots and seeds beneath the soil that await their time to flourish. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restoring God, rebuild and repair nations ravaged by war or famine. Humble the hearts of governments and authorities, that they loose the bonds of injustice and liberate the oppressed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, renew our practices of devotion and discipleship. Make us generous in giving, steadfast in prayer, and attentive to your grace amid many distractions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous God, provide bread for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and protection for the vulnerable. Listen to the cries of all who are abused, imprisoned, and who suffer due to pain, anxiety, or illness (especially). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: And because you are one with us, O Christ, enable us to share your life with the world by sharing our own lives with the world. And so we pray, in the words you have taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER
SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Meal

OFFERTORY / OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A

Let us pray.

Generous God,

**you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.**

Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.

[THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE]

P In the night in which he was betrayed...

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks...

Remembering his love poured out,
his life laid down and lifted up,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

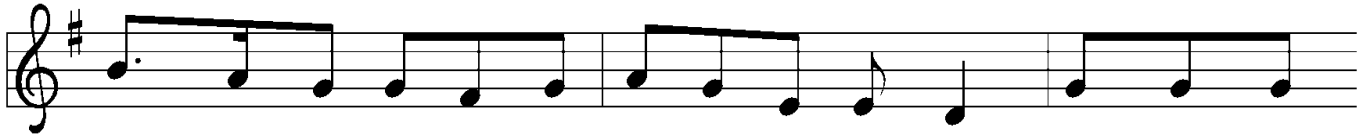
Blessed are you, Holy God,
from the rising of the sun to its setting,
we bless your holy name.

You set creation's table
with the bounty of your goodness
and satisfy the needs of every living thing.

You gather the peoples of the earth
to feast on your promise and your presence
made known to us in your Son, Jesus.

Come the table is set.

COMMUNION SONGS : ELW 608 *"SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING"*



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

PASTORAL BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray,
 We thank you, living God,
 for the body and blood of your Son,
 which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike.
 As Christ has loved us in this feast,

so send us to love Christ in our neighbors.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Sending

BENEDICTION:

P

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and give you ☩ peace. Amen.

SENDING SONG: OSB 114 *"MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE"* VS. 1-3 (NEXT PAGE)

DISMISSAL:

P

Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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1 My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
2 I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed me,
3 I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
4 In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,



for thee, all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign;
and pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree;
and praise thee as long as thou lend - est me breath;
I'll ev - er a - dore thee in heav - en so bright;



my gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou;
I love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy brow;
and say, when the death - dew lies cold on my brow;
and sing - ing thy prais - es, be - fore thee I'll bow;



if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.