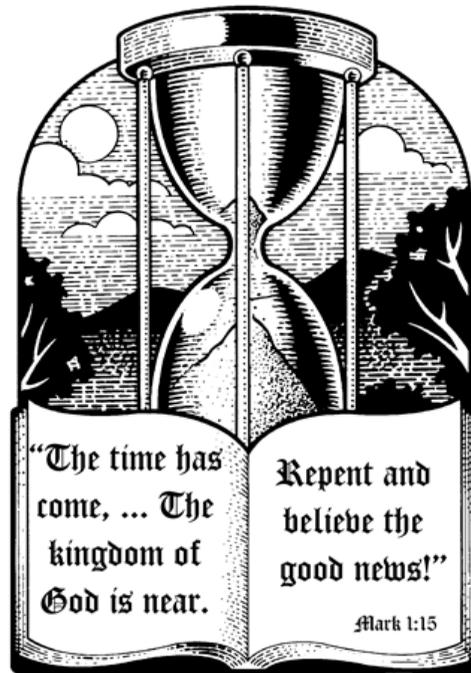


**First Week in Lent  
Service of Prayer and Preaching  
with Imposition of Ashes  
February 24, 2021 7:00pm**



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
***'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL.'***



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

**'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'**

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Administrative Assistant – Sonya Gorman



You are invited to use the yellow Prayer Cards located in the pew for prayer requests. Please hand this card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

*\* Please turn off cellphones\**

## AS WE GATHER

Brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 40 days of Lent are set aside as a time to take a look at our daily walk with God. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. In our service today, as a reminder of our mortality and our sin, ashes are imposed on the foreheads of believers.

The ashes for today are prepared by burning palm branches. Their use suggests in a dramatic way God's judgment and condemnation of sin, also our frailty and total dependence on God, as well as our humiliation and repentance. The words spoken as ashes are imposed, "*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,*" were first spoken to

Adam after his fall into sin. We are forcefully reminded of the words of the committal in the Burial Service, "...*earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.*" Ashes also, however, speak of cleansing and renewal. Ashes were once used as a cleaning agent. Thus ashes imposed in the shape of a cross symbolize both judgment *and* baptismal cleansing.

*This service envisions the presence of those who have specifically come to make confession and who desire to receive the personal application and comfort of the declared absolution of God. The thrust of this service is the absolution God imparts to each individual.*

We have a mission statement that says we are *Hearing, Sharing and Living the Gospel!* As we seek to fulfill that mission, perhaps listening to "others" who have lived and shared the Gospel would be helpful. So this year our Lenten journey brings us to the cross through the words of "the others," "the them," "the they." Some of "them" are those who watched, and some are "others" who

participated in Jesus going to Golgotha. From what “they said” we hear the witness of those who were there to see it and, in some cases, move the events along.

What ‘*They*’ said as Jesus went to Calvary

Matt 26:19-25 *Surely not I, Rabbi?* (Ash Wednesday)

Matt 26:59-66 *He is worthy of death*

Matt 26:69-75 *I do not know the man*

John 18:33-38 *What is truth?*

Matt 27:22-26 *Let His blood be on us and on our children*

Luke 23:38-43 *Lord, remember me*

Luke 23:44-47 *Surely this was a righteous man*  
(Good Friday)

## First Week in Lent

What '*They*' said as Jesus went to Calvary  
Service of Prayer and Preaching, LSB 260  
February 24, 2021 7:00 p.m.

### Invocation

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** We begin in the name into which we are baptized; In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, this holy season of Lent is one of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and crucifixion 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.

*(Silence for reflection)*

## **The Litany**

*LSB 288*

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** God the Father, in heaven,

**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Holy Spirit,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Spare us, good Lord.

**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;  
by Your holy nativity;  
by Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation;  
by Your agony and bloody sweat;  
by Your cross and Passion;  
by Your precious death and burial;  
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the  
Comforter:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** In all time of our tribulation;  
in all time of our prosperity;  
in the hour of death;  
and in the day of judgment:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** To prosper the preaching of Your Word;  
to bless our prayer and meditation;  
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;  
to give heart to our sorrow and strength to  
our repentance:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To draw all to Yourself;  
to bless those who are instructed in the faith,  
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the  
distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the  
abandoned and all who stand in need of our  
prayers;  
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;  
and to have mercy on us all:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**P** To turn our hearts to You;  
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and  
slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C** we implore You to hear us.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sin of the world,

**C** grant us Your peace.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** O Christ,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy. Amen.

*Stand*

### **Imposition of Ashes**

**P** Let us pray. O God, we beseech You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature and, of Your goodness, deign to bless ✠ and sanctify these ashes to be a sign of our humility and Your pardon of our sins, that we, who acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return, may by Your mercy worthily receive both the pardon of all our sins and the reward which You promise to those who are penitent; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

*(At this time, those who wish to receive the mark of ashes upon their forehead may come forward. The ashes are an ancient sign of mortality and death, sorrow, and forgiveness.)*

## *Opening Hymn*

*LSB 707 sts. 1-4*

### *“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”*



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!  
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.  
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.  
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

*Public domain*

## *Stand*

**+ INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND  
ABSOLUTION +**

*LSB 292*

**☐** Pastor, please hear my confession and pronounce forgiveness in order to fulfill God's will. I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins.

**I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered.**

**I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin.**

**What troubles me particularly is that . . .** *(in the silence of our hearts we confess what troubles us)*

**☐** Having confessed our sins, together we say...

**C** I am sorry for all of this and ask for grace.  
I want to do better.

**P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**C** Amen.

**P** Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

**C** Yes.

**P** Let it be done for you as you believe.

**P** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Opening Versicles

*LSB 260*

**P** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C** Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

**P** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

**C** let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

**P** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

**C** He was bruised for our iniquities.

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the ✠ Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Reading from Holy Scripture**

*LSB 263*

**Reading**

*Matthew 26:59-66*

59 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. 60 But they did not find any, though many false

witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward 61 and declared, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’”

62 Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” 63 But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

64 “You have said so,” Jesus replied.

“But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have

heard the blasphemy. 66 What do you think?”  
“He is worthy of death,” they answered.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Responsory

*LSB 263*

**P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death, He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C** He was delivered up to death, He was delivered for the sins of the people.

**P** We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**C** He was delivered up to death, He was delivered for the sins of the people.

*Sit*

# Hymn of the Day

LSB 657 sts. 1-4

## “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -  
your us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not  
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to  
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of  
o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle  
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He  
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's  
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's  
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

**Homily**

**Pastor Tom Rhodes**

*“He is Worthy of Death”*

*Stand*

**Catechism**

*LSB 264*

**Ten Commandments**

**☐ ☑ You shall have no other gods.**

**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord  
your God.**

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

**Honor your father and your mother.**

**You shall not murder.**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

**You shall not steal.**

**You shall not give false testimony against your  
neighbor.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or  
his manservant or maidservant, his ox or  
donkey, or anything that belongs to your  
neighbor.**

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13, LSB 264*

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

**C** **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.**

## Offering

*In quiet devotion and responding in personal stewardship of God's abundant provision to you, please use the offering plates in the back as you enter or exit. This is just as it says: An offering to God through His church. As a reassurance to those in worship today, especially our guests - this is not an obligation - the good news of Jesus is free to all!*

## Prayer

*LSB 265*

**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, and all those on our prayer list, 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.**

### **Collect for the Word**

*LSB 265*

**P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Evening Prayer**

*LSB 266*

**P** **C** **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray**

**that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**Blessing**

*LSB 267*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

*Closing Hymn*

*LSB 861 sts. 1-3*

*“Christ Be My Leader”*



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

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