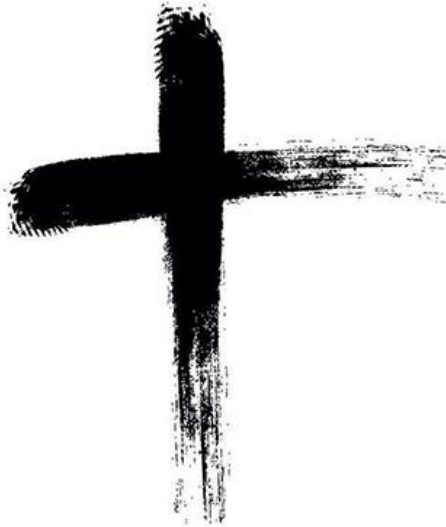


Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2024

Ash Wednesday (on Tuesday)



Shining the light of Christ in the heart of the pines

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## **WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!” (Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this evening to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.

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### **SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS EVENING:**

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh  
Musician – Susan Michael  
Assisting Elder – David Layland

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### **Please join us here for our Holy Week services:**

Maundy Thursday, April 17 – 7:00pm (with Communion)  
Good Friday, April 18 – 7:00pm

## +IMPOSITION OF ASHES+

**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.

*Silence for reflection*

**P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*The pastor places ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying: “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

*After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his or her place in silence.*

**P** Almighty God, we beseech You to grant us true repentance and Your Holy Spirit, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy and that at the last we may come to Your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** Go in peace. You are free.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## +PREPARATION+

### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Opening Sentences

*Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9*

**P** I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.

**C** Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

**P** The Lord is gracious and merciful,

**C** slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**P** The Lord is good to all,

**C** and His mercy is over all that He has made.

### Confession and Absolution

*Based on Philipians 2:1-11*

**P** Let us confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection on the Word of God and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins in thought, word, and deed with which I have offended You. By nature, I am sinful and unclean. Time and again I have not honored Your name or walked in Your ways. Although I justly deserve Your punishment in time and for eternity, I am truly sorry for my transgressions and sincerely repent of them. In Your great mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, forgive me all my sins, and by the directing of the Holy Spirit, lead me to walk in paths of blessedness.

**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.

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, You call Your straying people to return to You in repentance and contrition, and You graciously have promised forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Grant that, forgiven and free, we may live each day in joyful hope as Your well-loved children; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Hymn

*“My Song Is Love Unknown”*

LSB 430

## Psalm

Psalm 51:1-13

**P** Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

**C** **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!**

**P** For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**C** **Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.**

**P** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**C** **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

**P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**C Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

**P** Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

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

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

**C Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**P** Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

**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.***

## First Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

<sup>20b</sup>We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For He says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>[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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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. . . .

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>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.

**Hymn**

*“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”*

LSB 418

**Sermon**

*Ash Wednesday*

**Apostles’ Creed**

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come 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.**

### **Passing of the Peace**

*When Jesus himself appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, he greeted them by saying, “Peace be with you” (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26) – and so we do likewise.*

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend His pilgrim people from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our national church body and for this local congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the fostering of unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who partake this day of Christ’s holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life and have a foretaste of the feast to come, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father and for all who are involved in ministries of outreach and care, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably; and for the people being governed, that they may contribute to the well-being of society, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who serve in all worthy occupations, professions, arts, and sciences, that God would grant them skill and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities and grant them a sense of value and satisfaction through their vocations, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve, comfort, and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all the faithful in this household of faith and beyond, that the Spirit would lead them to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who are sick, that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, and for all in service vocations of healing and providing safety and care in our communities, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who mourn, that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but will rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

**C Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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

Usher

*Please sign the attendance books as they are passed.*

Offertory

**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



