The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of a tree trunk, showing the intricate, swirling patterns of its bark in shades of grey, blue, and brown. Overlaid on the left side of the image is a large, white silhouette of a dove in flight, facing left. Three heart shapes are also overlaid: a dark grey heart near the top of the dove's tail, and a dark grey heart, a teal heart, and a small orange heart arranged horizontally below the dove's body.

Return to the
LORD, your God,
for he is gracious
and merciful,
slow to anger, and
abounding in
steadfast love,
and relents from
punishing.

JOEL
NRSV
2:13

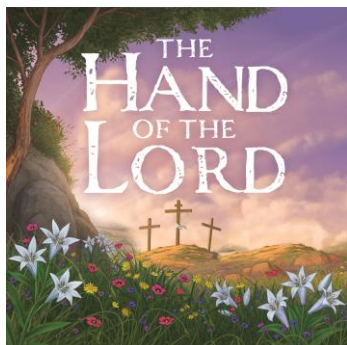
ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday March 5, 2025

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

134 21st Street • Fond du Lac, Wisconsin • fdllutheran.com



Divine Worship. . . 6:30pm

Andrew A. Schaller, Pastor

Church: (920) 922-7421

Cell: (605) 880-7886

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025

LENTEN ADDRESS

(Pastor)

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 90

Pastor: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

Congregation: You return man to dust and say, “Return, O Children of man!” For a thousand years in Your sight are as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

Pastor: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Congregation: For we are brought to an end by your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

Pastor: For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of Your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of You?

Congregation: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Pastor: Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on Your servants!

Congregation: Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Pastor: Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.

Congregation: Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children.

Pastor: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: 166 *“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: (Spoken) **“Amen.”**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

Congregation: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Pastor: Let us rend our hearts, confessing our sins to God, our Father.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by our own hands, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We deserve Your present and eternal punishment. Have mercy on us in Your son. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. He has opened His hands to give you the free blessings of the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. As a called servant of Christ, and at His direction, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: (Spoken) **“Amen.”**

PRAYER (Pastor)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

JOEL 2:12-19

¹² “Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ”

¹⁸ Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹ The Lord answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations. * ”

EPISTLE LESSON:

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20-6:10

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² 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.

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

GOSPEL LESSON:

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

“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.

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

⁵ “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. ⁶ 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.

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

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN: 376 - *“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”*

THE SERMON:

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

(Printed as the Gospel Lesson)

THE HAND OF THE LORD

Freely Gives

THE OFFERTORY

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

THE OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS

We express our thanksgiving for what the Savior Jesus has done for us by supporting His Work with our time, talents and gifts. Should you wish to leave a gift, there are offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary. As our gifts are brought forward to His Altar, we sing His Praise.

THE OFFERING HYMN

(TLH 148:1,7-8)

♪ Lord Jesus Christ, my Life, my Light, My Strength by day, my Trust by night, On earth I'm but a passing guest And sorely with my sins oppress.

♪ Lord, in Thy nail-prints let me read That Thou to save me hast decreed And grant that in Thine opened side My troubled soul may ever hide.

♪ Since Thou hast died, the Pure, the Just. I take my homeward way in trust. The gates of heaven, Lord, open wide When here I may no more abide.

PRAYER(S) /THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: 329 *"From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee"*

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God. through Jesus Christ, our Lord, into whose hands You gave the awesome task of perfectly fulfilling Your holy Law, and yet offering Himself as the one and only sacrifice sufficient to redeem mankind. Into Your hands He commended His life so that from His hands we might receive eternal life.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation: (Spoken) **"Amen."**

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT:



In the early church, Communion was thought of so highly that no one except confirmed members of the church were allowed even to watch it. This practice was more strict than necessary, of course. But the early church did understand something that many today do not: that Communion was never intended for indiscriminate use by everyone, but was restricted to those who are properly prepared. If you have

never communed with us before, and desire the benefits of the Lord's Supper, please set up an appointment with the pastor to discuss how you can prepare properly. **The Lord's Supper will be received standing or seated in the pews. You are asked to dispose of the empties in one of the disposals near the front of the sanctuary.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Congregation: Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

Pastor: You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

Congregation: Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this spiritual gift, and we ask You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Congregation: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 784 *“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”*

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this evening in Jesus' name. We are glad that you have come to worship with us and hope that you will return again. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please either speak with the pastor or with an usher on the way out.

THE HAND OF THE LORD

March 5 – The Hand of the Lord Freely Gives

Pastor Andrew Schaller

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 12 – The Hand of the Lord Heals the Sick

Pastor David Ude

Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:14-17

March 19 – The Hand of the Lord Casts out Demons

Pastor Luke Bernthal

Luke 9:37-43, 11:14-23

March 26 – The Hand of the Lord Raises the Dead

Pastor David Ude

Luke 7:11-17

April 2 – The Hand of the Lord Creates and Saves –

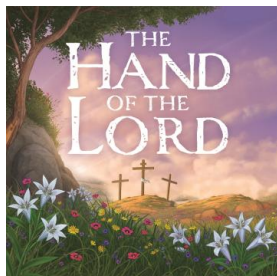
Pastor Mark Tiefel

Matthew 14:22-33

April 9 – The Hand of the Lord Holds All Things -

Pastor Andrew Schaller

John 3:11-18, 22-36



These devotions are produced by Pastor/Professor Emeritus Paul Schaller and sent out on a weekly basis.

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HYMN SHEET

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT

Lord God, you do not desire the death of the sinner, but would have him turn from his evil way and live. I come to you confessing that I have sinned and deserve only Your anger and punishment. But I cling to Your mercy in Christ Jesus, my Lord, who gave himself for my redemption. Lord, grant that I may always believe this and never doubt. Grant that in this faith I may go to Your altar and receive the body and blood which Your Son has given for my salvation, and praise, laud and honor Your love and mercy all the days of my life. Hear me for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Redeemer and Savior. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT

I give you thanks and praise, Almighty, everlasting god, heavenly Father, for this your divine love that has again enabled me to receive the body and blood of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord. I humbly ask that you would fill me with the power of the Holy Spirit that through this Sacrament which I have received with both mouth and by faith that I may always retain and possess the treasures of Your grace, even the forgiveness of sins and unity with Christ and eternal life. Let this enable me to walk in the footsteps of my Lord Jesus, doubting nothing and trusting that you will give to me and all who trust in Him the crown of everlasting life. Hear me, heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior. Amen.

HYMN

SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO THEE

**1. Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the adoring knee,
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes, Oh,
by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for man below, Bending
from Thy throne on high, Hear our solemn litany!**

**2. By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears, By
Thy days of sore distress In the savage wilderness, By the dread,
mysterious hour Of the insulting Tempter's power, Turn, O turn, a
favoring eye, Hear our solemn litany!**

**3. By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine agony of prayer, By the
cross, the nail, the thorn, Piercing spear, and torturing scorn, By
the gloom that veiled the skies O'er the dreadful sacrifice, Listen
to our humble cry, Hear our solemn litany!**

4. By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone, By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God, Oh, from earth to heaven restored, Mighty, reascended Lord, Listen, listen, to the cry Of our solemn litany!

HYMN

ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee; Let the water and the blood From Thy riven side which flowed Be of sin the double cure, Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2. Not the labors of my hands Can fulfil Thy Law's demands; Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow, All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

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!

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!

THE OFFERING HYMN

(TLH 148:1,7-8)

♪ Lord Jesus Christ, my Life, my Light, My Strength by day, my Trust by night, On earth I'm but a passing guest And sorely with my sins oppress.

♪ Lord, in Thy nail-prints let me read That Thou to save me hast decreed And grant that in Thine opened side My troubled soul may ever hide.

♪ Since Thou hast died, the Pure, the Just. I take my homeward way in trust. The gates of heaven, Lord, open wide When here I may no more abide.

HYMN

FROM DEPTHS OF WOE I CRY TO THEE

1. From depths of woe I cry to Thee, Lord, hear me, I implore Thee. Bend down Thy gracious ear to me, My prayer let come before Thee. If Thou rememberest each misdeed, If each should have its rightful meed, Who may abide Thy presence?

2. Thy love and grace alone avail To blot out my transgression; The best and holiest deeds must fail To break sin's dread oppression. Before Thee none can boasting stand, But all must fear Thy strict demand And live alone by mercy.

3. Therefore my hope is in the Lord And not in mine own merit; It rests upon His faithful Word To them of contrite spirit That He is merciful and just; This is my comfort and my trust. His help I wait with patience.

4. And though it tarry till the night And till the morning waken, My heart shall never doubt His might Nor count itself forsaken. Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed, Ye of the Spirit born indeed; Wait for your God's appearing.

5. Though great our sins and sore our woes, His grace much more aboundeth; His helping love no limit knows, Our utmost need it soundeth. Our shepherd good and true is He, Who will at last His Israel free From all their sin and sorrow.

HYMN

LORD, TAKE MY HAND AND LEAD ME

1. Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way; Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day. Without Your grace and favor I go astray; So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

2. Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear; For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near. Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe, For when Your hand is guiding, I in peace I go.

3. Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come, I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home, And nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend! So take my hand and lead me Unto the end. Amen.