# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & Christian Preschool

# Rev. Russ Leeper, Senior Pastor Beth Hurt, Intern Melanie Johanningmeier, Director of Music

February 22, 2023



Prelude

Welcome

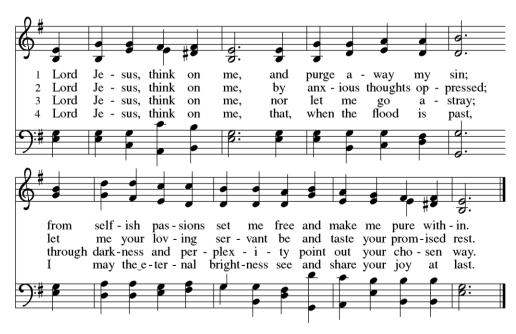
Call to Worship (P=Pastor, C=Congregation)

- P: We are formed of the dust.
- C: To dust we shall return.
- P: This truth is a gift.
- C: It reminds us that we are the created, not the Creator.
- P: It invites us to trust the One who made us.
- C: It puts things back into perspective and reminds us that our ultimate hope is not in the things of this world.
- P: Remember you are dust.
- All: And to dust we shall return.

Hymn

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

#599



#### Joel 2:12-13

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

## Holy Gospel

#### Matthew 6: 16-21

16 '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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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. 19 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes 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 sis the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Message Pastor Russ Leeper

Confession and Forgiveness

- P: Our sin separates us from a holy and righteous God. Yet, God longs to wrap us in an embrace of forgiveness and love. Therefore, with confidence, we acknowledge that our relationship with God and with each other is not as it should be. Let's pray...
- All: Merciful Savior, our best intentions, our most concentrated willpower, and our greatest efforts are no match for the power of sin. We do the very things we do not want to do and fail to do what is good and right and just. We feel guilty and are often exhausted by continually trying to do better and be better. Into this hopeless state of affairs you came, Lord, to do for us what we could not do for ourselves, making right our relationship with God and each other. In faith and gratitude, we place ourselves in your loving and merciful hands, trusting not only in your forgiveness but also in your power to transform us, renew us and set us free.

All are invited to come forward to receive ashes on their foreheads. We do so as a sign of repentance, a remembrance of baptism, and a reminder that God is our ultimate hope.

P: As we draw near to God, God draws near to us. God's mercy restores us and makes us new. These ashes on our foreheads remind us that we are dust. But we wear them in the shape of a cross because we have a savior who restores and heals us, even in death. In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven!

All: Amen.

First Communion Blessing

5<sup>th</sup> Grade 1<sup>st</sup> Communion

Saeli Rae Chase, Alesia Marie Garden, Isaac Ryan Gassman, Meghan Ann Korbel, Addisen Joyce Lantz, Grace Elizabeth Marth, Sophie Renee Wilkens



#465

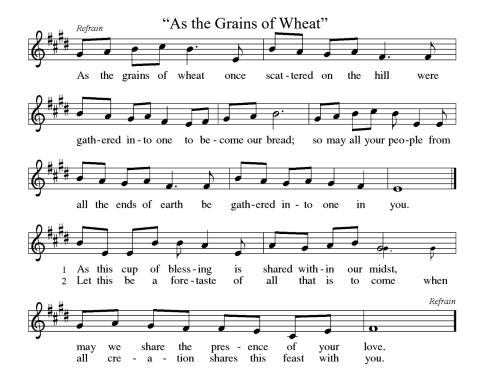


#### The Communion

The Words of Institution

The 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.

The Distribution



### "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees; Let us break bread together on our knees; (**Refrain**)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; Let us drink wine together on our knees; (**Refrain**)

Let us praise God together on our knees; Let us praise God together on our knees; (**Refrain**)

**Refrain:** When I fall on my knees, With my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me

## "Just as I am, Without One Plea"



Blessing for the Lenten Journey...

- P: Where Christ walks,
- C: we will follow.
- P: Where Christ stumbles,
- C: we will stop.
- P: Where Christ cries,
- C: we will listen.
- P: Where Christ suffers,
- C: we will hurt.
- P: When Christ dies,
- C: we will bow our heads in sorrow.
- P: When Christ rises again in glory,
- C: we will share his beautiful and endless joy.
- P: May God bless you \$\psi\$ on your Lenten journey.

#592

