

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & Christian Preschool

Rev. Russ Leeper, Senior Pastor
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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

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,

from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lord Jesus, Think on Me". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains four verses of the hymn. The second system continues the lyrics, including a bridge or final verse.

Scripture Readings

Joel 2:12-13

¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend 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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P: This is 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

5th Grade 1st Communion

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





1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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

“As the Grains of Wheat”



As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were



gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from



all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

#471

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”

#592

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

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 ☩ on your Lenten journey.

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.