

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

Empowered by Christ's Sacraments to be His witness in Friendship/Fellowship/and Faith.

2051 West Maple Ave. Flint, MI 48507 810 234 2423 Pastor Mark Pretznow 248 736 8639



Ash Wednesday Divine Service I

February 17, 2021

Pre-Service Music

Ash Wednesday Opening Statement

Through the words of the prophet Joel, God called to His people and commanded that they turn from their sinful ways and return to Him for His grace and blessings. The images the prophet uses are vivid and disturbing. The situation of God's people is desperate and needs immediate attention. This is a time for listening and responding to the call to return to faithfulness to the God who has ever been faithful to His people. "Return to the Lord, your God" is more than a verse sung as part of the liturgy. It is a heartfelt directive for our lives as together we follow the pathway of Lent.

Please stand as you are able

Ash Wednesday Opening Address

▶ In the prophet Joel we read, "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." Lent is a season during which the whole church is encouraged to assess our faithfulness to the Lord Jesus, to recognize where we have fallen short, to repent of our sins, and to return to the Lord through the Means of Grace.

In the Holy Scriptures, ashes symbolize repentance. On this occasion, ashes mark our foreheads as a reminder that "we are dust and to dust we shall return." These ashes are in the shape of a cross, as a reminder that through the cross of Christ our sins are forgiven. Marked with the sign of our humanity and our redemption in Christ, we are called to daily die to sin and be raised to new life with Christ. The new life in Christ is marked by the fruit of the Spirit as a way of life to which we now aspire by the grace of God. So, "return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13).

Silence for reflection.

The Litany for Ash Wednesday 2021

- **P** Return to the Lord your God
- **G** for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
- **P** From seeking after other gods
- G we return to You, O Lord.
- **P** From misusing Your name,
- we return to You, O Lord.

- **P** From forgetting to call upon You in every trouble and from faltering in prayer,
- G we return to You, O Lord
- **P** From faltering in worship and not always hearing and learning Your Word gladly,
- G we return to You, O Lord
- **P** From disrespecting the authorities You have placed in our lives,
- G we return to You, O Lord
- **P** From disregard for our neighbor's well-being,
- G we return to You, O Lord
- P From failing to nurture the most important relationships in our lives,
- G we return to You, O Lord
- **P** From our lack of complete honesty toward one another and our failure to help our neighbors improve their possession and income,
- G we return to You, O Lord
- P From speaking hurtful words about others and failing to explain our neighbors' actions in the kindest way,
- G we return to You, O Lord
- **P** From covetous thoughts and actions,
- G we return to You, O Lord
- **P** To Your gracious Word of love for us in Christ,
- C we return

P To our identity as children of God, baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

C we return

■ To Christ's body and blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins,

C we return

P Return to the Lord your God,

G for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Steadfast Lord, You remain a solid foundational rock, even when we are shaky and weak. We thank and praise You for Your gracious invitation to return to You, not only during this Lenten season, but day by day. We are prone to wander. Yet Your love for us never wavers, and You constantly call us to return to You. Bless our Lenten journey. Let it be for us a time of daily returning to You, that we may be Your own and live under You in Your kingdom and serve You in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Please be seated

The pastor receives ashes first, followed by the congregation. Using the right thumb, the pastor places the ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying:

P Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence. There is no statement of dismissal.

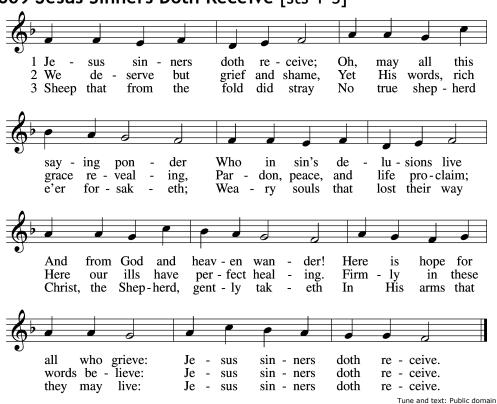
419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee



6

After all have received the ashes, the service continues with the Service of Confession and Absolution

Confession and Absolution



609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive [sts 1-3]

Please stand as you are able

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

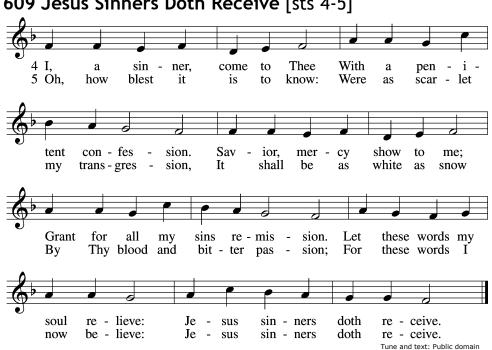
- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- G Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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 holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.





609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive [sts 4-5]

Service of the Word

Responsive Reading of Psalm 51:1-13

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
- G³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- 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.

- Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- G ⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

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

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

C¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

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

C ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

- ¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
- **G** and sinners will return to you.
- 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.

Kyrie LSB 152

- **P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

- P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- **C** Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading: 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;

¹³and 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. ¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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. ¹⁷Between 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?'" ¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The 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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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. ³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

Lenten Verse LSB 157

Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[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.

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. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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. . . .

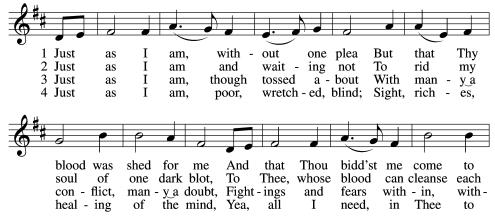
¹⁶"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your 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, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys 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 Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

570 Just as I Am, without One Plea (A Lamb of God Favorite)



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W	O O Stast Vilt w ecau	Lamb Lamb I am, ' velcomo se Thy	e, par prom	God, God, wilt re	I ceiv ean elie	se, relie ve,	I I I eve;	come. come. come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down; Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon: Joel 2:12-13 "Return to the LORD"

Please stand as you are able

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 \top of the world to come. Amen.

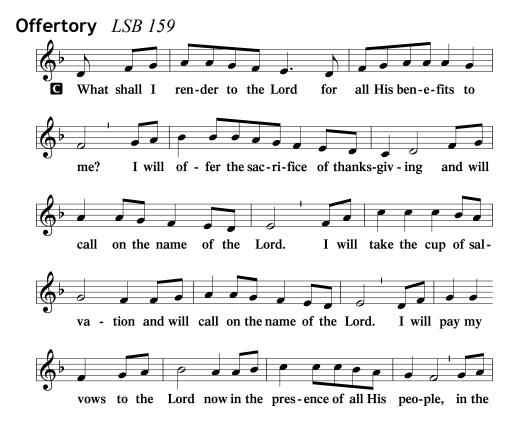
Offering and Prayers

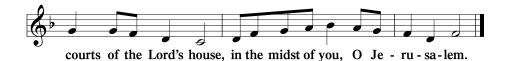
Offering:

Please fulfill your obligation as a member to support the ministry that is still on-going despite the Pandemic restrictions. Please mail in your offering, give on-line at our website, or drop your offering envelope off in the lobby in the offering box across from the Church Office Monday – Friday 9 am-1 PM

Monday – Friday 9 am-1 PM Offering Verse: Psalm 51:10

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.





Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

 With repentant hearts, let us turn to God in prayer for the Church, the world, and all who are in need, trusting that God is gracious and merciful to us in Jesus, abounding in steadfast love.

For the Church, that this Lenten season draws us closer to God and to one another as we focus on Jesus' redemptive acts for us and the life that He calls us to live—marked by repentance, fasting, prayer, and acts of love toward our neighbors. In prayer,

• we return to You, O Lord.

For leaders throughout the world, that all leaders national, regional, and local—serve with wisdom, uphold justice, and provide means of caring for those most vulnerable among us. In prayer,

G we return to You, O Lord.

- For those in our community who struggle with poverty, addiction, or unemployment, that during this Lenten time, You reenergize Your Church to serve them and love our neighbors in need as You loved and served the poor and outcast during Your earthly ministry. In prayer,
- G we return to You, O Lord.

P For those who are sick, hospitalized, or dying, that they experience healing according to Your will, and that in the midst of their suffering they would experience the presence of Jesus in words of hope and acts of care. In prayer,

G we return to You, O Lord.

For this congregation, that our intensified repentance, fasting, and prayer lead us to live in renewed ways, dying to sin with Christ in Holy Baptism each day, and being raised to new life as well every day and into eternity. In prayer,

G we return to You, O Lord.

P For our loved ones who faithfully followed Jesus in this life and are now with Him in heaven, we give thanks. Bring us to that day when all Your saints, past, present, and future, are returned to You for all eternity. In prayer,

we return to You, O Lord.

P By the words of the prophets and by the living voice of Jesus in our ears, You call us to return to You, O Lord. According to Your gracious mercy and abounding love, hear these prayers that we this day have spoken, as well as the prayers we have that are too deep for words; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

Salutation

P The Peace of the Lord be with you alwaysC And also with you.

Please take a moment from where you sit, with a wave of the hand, share the Peace and love of Christ Jesus with your fellow worshipers, as well as with those worshipping at home.

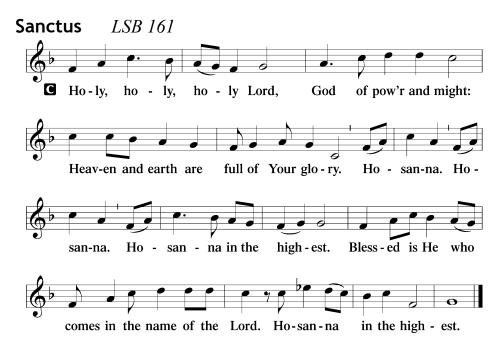
Please stand as you are able

Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 160

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the

company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Ash Wednesday Prayer of Thanksgiving

▶ Thanks and praise we give to You, O Lord, for returning to Your people again and again in mercy. When Adam and Eve walked away, You came to them with the promise of a Savior. When the world forgot Your ways, You saved Noah and his family in the flood. When the Israelites complained in the wilderness, still You provided manna and quail. When so many of the kings were unfaithful, You sustained a faithful remnant. At just the right time, You sent Jesus, Your only-begotten Son, to suffer, die, and be raised, so that the whole world might return to You.

On this Ash Wednesday marked by repentance, we return to You, O God, and praise You that Your mercy

never fails, that You forgive not seven times but seventy times seven, that Jesus came to save not the righteous, but sinners. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

The Words of Our Lord

P 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."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

G Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

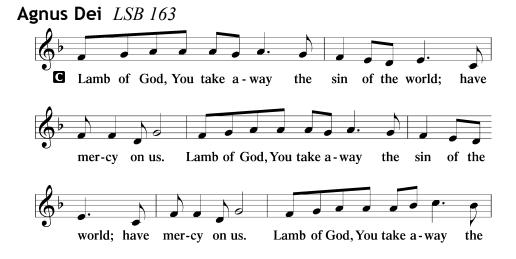
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray: 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.

Pax Domini LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



25



Please be seated

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

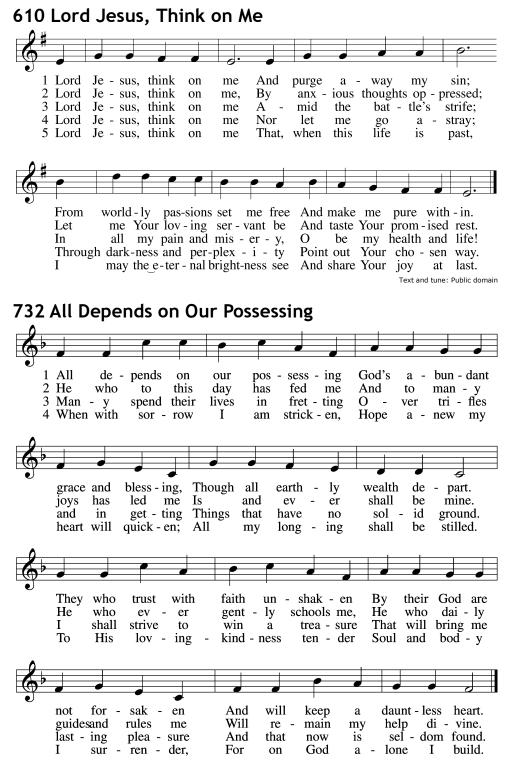
The true body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The true blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

Table Dismissal

P Depart now in His joy and peace, knowing that all of your sins have been forgiven.



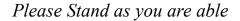
- 5 Well He knows what best to grant me; All the longing hopes that haunt me, Joy and sorrow, have their day.
 I shall doubt His wisdom never; As God wills, so be it ever; I commit to Him my way.
- 6 If my days on earth He lengthen, God my weary soul will strengthen; All my trust in Him I place.
 Earthly wealth is not abiding, Like a stream away is gliding; Safe I anchor in His grace.

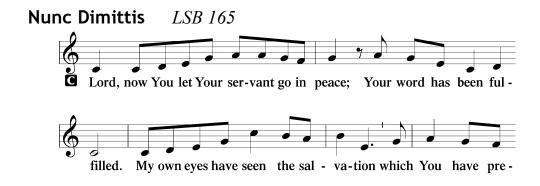
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Dismissal

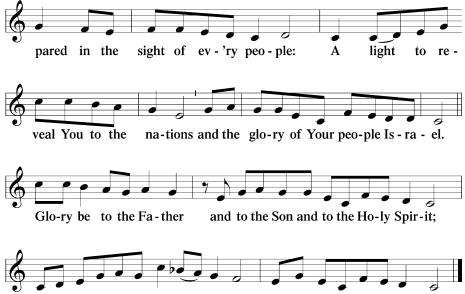
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.

C Amen.





28



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post Communion Collect:

P Let us pray. Forgiv-You for body and ment toour Lentravel days, Remember man that you are dust and into depth lowing Body of dust you shall return. to the permeate Jesus our Lord,

ing God, we thank providing Christ's blood as nourishday and throughout ten journey. As we through these forty guide us to greater and breadth in fol-Jesus, that as the Christ our witness love of God may the world; through Christ, Your Son, who lives and

reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

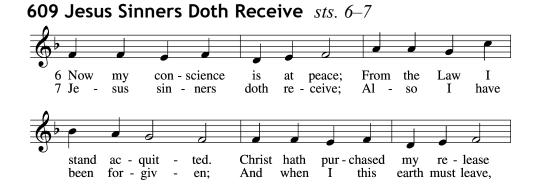
C Amen

Benediction LSB 166

- **P** 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.

C Amen.





This year the theme is *Big Mac or Whopper*. Which one is your favorite? The object is to fill your container, empty it into one of the large cans at the worship service and take your container home to fill again and again. The can with the largest amount will be the winner. The Lenten Challenge money will go to Michigan District Missions Commitment.



Lamb Of God Lutheran Church

February 17, 2021

