



**Ash Wednesday**  
**March 5, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**Schubert, MO**

**Ringing of the bell**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Opening Hymn TLH 140 "Jesus I Will Ponder Now"**

**Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion;  
With your Spirit me endow for such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish  
Of your suff'ring, pain and death that I may not perish.**

**Grant that I your passion view with repentant grieving.  
Let me not bring shame to you by unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun ev'ry sinful pleasure  
Since for me God's only Son suffered without measure?**

**If my sins give me alarm and my conscience grieve me,  
Let your cross my fear disarm; peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won by your holy passion.  
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!**

**Invocation and Responsive Reading** John 6:30-35 (please stand)

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

**C Amen.**

**P** So [the crowd] said to [Jesus], "What sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?"

**C Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"**

**P** Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven,

**C But my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.**

P For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”  
They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

**C Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness for the sake of Jesus.

**C Almighty God and Father, you sent Jesus, the true Bread of life, but we often find other ways to satisfy ourselves. We follow our own sinful desires and thirst after the pleasures offered by the world around us. Have mercy on us and forgive us for Jesus’ sake. Give us true hunger and thirst for your Word and your ways.**

P God has had mercy on us. He sent Jesus to be our Savior, to take onto himself the penalty of death for our sins. Jesus died for you and rose from the dead to give you life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C Jesus, Bread of life, feed us with your holy Word!**

### **Prayer of the Day & The *Imposition of Ashes***

*The congregation is invited to come forward to receive a cross of ashes either upon the forehead or the hand to symbolize humility and repentance*

Hymn TLH 166 “Savior When In Dust to Thee”

**Savior, when in dust to thee low we bow the adoring knee;  
When repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
O, by all thy pains and woe suffered once for man below,  
Bending from thy throne on high, hear our solemn litany!**

**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!**

**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 sigh; hear our solemn litany!**

**By thy deep expiring groan, by the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav’n restored, mighty, re-ascended Lord,  
Listen, Listen to the cry, Hear our solemn litany!**

**Epistle Reading ... Colossians 3:16-17**

**Gospel Reading ... Matthew 4:1-11**

**Sermon Hymn TLH 87 "Joy to the World"**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

**Sermon: "The Joy of Lent" – Nehemiah 8:5-12**

Offering

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

*Each petition ends with the following response:*

**P** Jesus, Bread of life,

**C** **Feed us with your holy Word.**

**The Order of Holy Communion**

**The Words of Institution**

*The Distribution*

Distribution Hymn: TLH 143 "O Dearest Jesus"

O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession--What dark transgression?  
They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;  
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;  
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee; They crucify Thee.  
Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;  
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit, This I do merit.  
What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!  
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;  
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him, Who would not know Him.  
The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;  
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted--God is committed.  
There was no spot in me by sin untainted;  
Sick with sin's poison, all my heart had fainted;  
My heavy guilt to hell had well-nigh brought me, Such woe it wrought me.  
O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,  
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!  
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying While Thou wert dying.  
O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!  
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?  
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer? What dare I offer?  
For vainly doth our human wisdom ponder—  
Thy woes, Thy mercy, still transcend our wonder.  
Oh, how should I do aught that could delight Thee! Can I requite Thee?  
Yet unrequited, Lord, I would not leave Thee;  
I will renounce whate'er doth vex or grieve Thee  
And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most lowly All fires unholy.  
But since my strength will nevermore suffice me  
To crucify desires that still entice me,  
To all good deeds, oh, let Thy Spirit win me And reign within me!  
I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,  
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;  
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor Henceforth forever.

Whate'er of earthly good this life may grant me,  
I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.  
I shall not fear what man can do to harm me Nor death alarm me.  
But worthless is my sacrifice, I own it;  
Yet, Lord, for love's sake Thou wilt not disown it;  
Thou wilt accept my gift in Thy great meekness Nor shame my weakness.  
And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven  
To me the crown of joy at last is given,  
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee, I, too, shall praise Thee. Amen.

The Thanksgiving Prayer

Benediction

P Jesus said, "I am the bread of life ...

**C This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.**

P I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

**C If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever."**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C Amen.**

**Closing Hymn TLH 179 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"**

**On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares and pleasures Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation! Amen.**