



Risen Christ Lutheran Church

March 5, 2025 7pm

† Ash Wednesday Service †

REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER HIS SANCTUARY, PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH THIS WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.



Lenten Midweek Series – Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis

Tonight's Theme – *The Good News of a Savior Who Covers Our Sin*

Risen Christ Lutheran Church
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ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe that the Lord’s Supper is not symbolic. We believe what Jesus Himself said: that His body and blood are truly present in this, His meal that He instituted for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above and you are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and you have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to the Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world through your here! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Everyone please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. For Guests, Pastor will send you a welcome card and please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather (*to read quietly prior to the service*) – Ash Wednesday is a solemn day, the beginning of our Lenten journey with our Savior to His cross and empty tomb. Thus Lent also reminds us of our earthly journey, from natural birth and rebirth in Holy Baptism, through all the events of our lives, and finally to the inheritance prepared for us in heaven. May God graciously and abundantly give us His Holy Spirit that we grow this Lent in our yearning for home and our love for Jesus. To impress upon us the solemnity of this day, our service begins in silence. “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship – “Hills and Valleys” sung by Esther Kaufmann

1. I've walked among the shadows

You wiped my tears away

I've felt the pain of heartbreak

And I've seen the brighter days

And I've prayed prayers to heaven

From my lowest place

And I have held Your blessings

God You give and take away

No matter what I have Your grace is enough

No matter where I am I'm standing in Your love

CHORUS: On the mountains I will bow my life

To the one who set me there

In the valley I will lift my eyes

To the one who sees me there

When I'm standing on the mountain

I didn't get there on my own

When I'm walking through the valley

I know I am not alone

(You're) God of the hills and valleys

Hills and valleys

God of the hills and valleys

And I am not alone

2. I've watched my dreams get broken
 In You I hope again
 No matter what I know
 I'm safe inside Your hands **CHORUS**

Interlude: *On the mountains I will bow my life
 In the valley I will lift my eyes
 Oh... **CHORUS***

BRIDGE: *Father You give and take away
 Every joy and every pain
 Through it all You will remain over it all*

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Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Savior, When in Dust to Thee



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Imposition of Ashes

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Silence for reflection

P O Lord, **C** **have mercy.**

P O Christ, **C** **have mercy.**

P O Lord, **C** **have mercy.**

P O Christ, **C** **hear us.**

P God the Father in heaven, **C** **have mercy.**

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **C** **have mercy.**

P God the Holy Spirit, **C** **have mercy.**

P Be gracious to us. **C** **Spare us, good Lord.**

P Be gracious to us. **C** **Help us, good Lord.**

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;

by Your holy nativity;

by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;

by Your agony and bloody sweat;

by Your cross and passion;

by Your precious death and burial;

by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;

and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter: **C** **Help us, good Lord.**

P In all time of our tribulation;

in all time of our prosperity;

in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment: **C** **Help us, good Lord.**

P We poor sinners implore You **C** **to hear us, O Lord.**

P To prosper the preaching of Your Word;

to bless our prayer and meditation;

to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;

and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To draw all to Yourself;

to bless those who are instructed in the faith;

to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers;

to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;

and to have mercy on us all: **C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

- P** To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;
and graciously to hear our prayers: **G We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, **G we implore You to hear us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **G have mercy.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **G have mercy.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **G grant us Your peace.**
- P** O Christ, **G hear us.**
- P** O Lord, **G have mercy.**
- P** O Christ, **G have mercy.**
- P** O Lord, **G have mercy. Amen.**
- P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **G Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us pray.
- Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- G O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
- G Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes *(Those who desire to receive ashes come forward. You may have them placed on your forehead or extend your hand to be placed on the top of your hand..)*

*As the ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says,
"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

Suggested Personal Prayer to say silently in your seat after the imposition of ashes upon your forehead.

Gracious and merciful God, You forgive the sins of all who come to You with penitent and contrite hearts. Grant me the spirit of true repentance to acknowledge our sins and to find in You forgiveness and restoration, wholeness and peace; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen

Music to sing during Imposition of Ashes

Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted You were condemned
I'm alive and well Your Spirit is within me
Because you died and rose again

***CHORUS: Amazing love how can it be
That You my king would die for me
Amazing love I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You***

BRIDGE: You are my king Jesus You are my king (Repeat)

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 51:1–13



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

**²Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!**

³For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.

**⁴Against 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 | ju-dgment.**

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.

**⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,*
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.**

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.

**⁸Let me hear joy and | gladness,*
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all my in- | iquities.

**¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.

**¹²Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.**

¹³Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,*
and sinners will re- | turn to you.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **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[Jesus said:] “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.**

Ash Wednesday Sermon

“The Good News of a Savior Who Covers Our Sin” *based on Genesis 3:1–13, 21 OUTLINE*

1. Like Adam and Eve, our sin covers us with guilt and fills us with shame.
2. As Adam and Eve couldn't hide themselves from God or justify themselves by blaming others, we cannot cover up or excuse our sin.
3. In providing garments of skin for Adam and Eve, God previewed how he would provide a covering for man's sin.
4. In Christ, God has freely given the covering we sinners need.
In Christ, God Has Covered Your Sins and Clothed You in Righteousness.
5. Clothed in Christ's righteousness, we can look forward to standing before God when we join his throng in paradise.

Nicene Creed

C **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.

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Prayer of the Church

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For peace and salvation, for reconciliation and unity, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For endurance and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For pastors, teachers, and all ministers and leaders in Your Church, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For those who labor in difficult or dangerous vocations, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For favorable weather and the nourishment of Your creation, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For those who have not known the light of Christ or have fallen away into the darkness of the world, let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all those who suffer illness and grief, let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.
- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Lift Up Your Hearts

- P** The Lord be with you **C** **And also with you**
P The Lord be with you **C** **And also with you**
 P Lift up your hearts

All Sing
We lift them to the Lord
Let us give thanks
To the Lord our God
It is right to give Him
Thanks and praise

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."
- P** 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."

Proclamation of Christ

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

- C** **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 Peace of the Lord

- P** The peace of the † Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

Communion

Lamb of God

1. Your only Son, no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God **CHORUS**

2. Your gift of Love they crucified
They laughed and scorned him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God **CHORUS**

**CHORUS: Oh Lamb of God,
Sweet Lamb of God
I love the Holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious Blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God**

3. I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God **CHORUS**

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Lord Have Mercy

Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken;
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim;
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom;
Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again.

**CHORUS: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on me.
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on me.**

I have built an altar where I've worshipped things of man;
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You;
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing;
Pardon my transgressions, help me love You again. **CHORUS**
I have longed to know You and all Your tender mercies,
Like a river of forgiveness ever flowing without end;
So I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence,
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night. **CHORUS**

ENDING: Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy on us; 4x

Steve Merkel CCLI Song #2989578
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Just as I Am, Without One Plea

1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bid me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fighting and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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

Closing Prayer

Above All

Above all powers, above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure what You're worth

***CHORUS: Crucified, laid behind the stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone
Like a rose, trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me
Above all***

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Benediction

- 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.
- P** As a people called to repentance and renewal on the journey to eternal life, go in peace and serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

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