

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
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(714) 527-7225

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 17, 2021



PRAYER IN PREPARATION OF WORSHIP:

Gracious Father in heaven, You hate nothing You have made, and You forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Open my eyes to see the guilt of my sin and the enormity of my transgressions, move my heart to turn to You in sorrow over my sin, and then let me see Your grace and mercy in all its fullness in the face of Christ. Amen.

WELCOME:

OPENING PRAYER:

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(based on Hebrews 12)*

Leader: Let us throw off everything that hinders
and the sin that so easily entangles;

People: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before Him
endured the cross and scorned its shame.

Leader: Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

People: Let us consider Jesus, who endured opposition,
so that we do not grow weary or lose heart.

Leader: So that we do not grow weary or lose heart, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN:

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

TLH 140

(Verses 1, 3 and 6)

Jesus, I will ponder now
On Thy holy passion;
With Thy Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Thy suffering, pain, and death
That I may not perish.

Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see Thy passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
Wrought Thy deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
Of Thy crucifixion.

Grant that I may willingly;
Bear with Thee my crosses,
Learning humbleness of Thee,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give Thee love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heaven above
Sing Thy praise forever.

OLD TESTAMENT RESPONSIVE READING: *(Based on Joel 2)*

Leader: Return to the LORD your God. Even now, declares the LORD,
return to Me with all your heart,

**People: with fasting and weeping and mourning.
Return to the LORD your God.**

Leader: Rend your heart and not your garments.

People: Return to the LORD your God,

Leader: for He is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
He relents from sending calamity.

People: Return to the LORD your God.

Leader: Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,
weep between the temple porch and the altar.
Let them say, Spare your people, O LORD.
Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,
Why should they say among the peoples, Where is their God?
Return to the LORD your God.

**People: Return to the LORD your God.
For He is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love.**

Leader: Return to the LORD your God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Leader: Dear Lord, out of love and mercy
You breathed into dust the breath of life --

**People: Creating us to serve You and one another.
Breathe on us anew, flow through us with Your Spirit,
allow us to see You in others,
and enable others to see You in us. Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

Leader: This afternoon our confession of sin takes place in both the disposition of our hearts and the act that takes place upon our bodies. The imposition of ashes is an ancient custom first started in the church centuries ago to welcome back those who had fallen away from the church and desired to be restored before Easter. Today we receive ashes as a sign of our penitence, an act of our contrition and a physical expression of our desire to be one with Christ and His bride, the church.



*(If you desire to receive the **Imposition of Ashes**,
please hold out the back side of your hand.
Should you choose to not come up for the Imposition of Ashes,
you may remain quietly in your seat for personal confession and meditation.)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Pastor: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
On account of Jesus' perfect life, innocent suffering
and death and victorious resurrection,
God graciously gives life where there was only death,
freedom where there was captivity to sin
and strength to resist temptation.
Go in peace for in the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

People: Amen.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 14:1-11*

It was two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the experts in Moses' Teachings were looking for some underhanded way to arrest Jesus and to kill Him. However, they said, "We shouldn't arrest Him during the festival, or else there will be a riot among the people."

Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had suffered from a skin disease. While Jesus was sitting there, a woman went to Him. She had a bottle of very expensive perfume made from pure nard. She opened the bottle and poured the perfume on His head.

Some who were there were irritated and said to one another, "Why was the perfume wasted like this? This perfume could have been sold for a high price, and the money could have been given to the poor." So they said some very unkind things to her.

Jesus said, "Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. You will always have the poor with you and can help them whenever you want. But you will not always have me with you. She did what she could. She came to pour perfume on my body before it is placed in a tomb. I can guarantee this truth: Wherever the Good News is spoken in the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve apostles, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus. They were pleased to hear what Judas had to say and promised to give him money. So he kept looking for a chance to betray Jesus. – GW ®

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE: *"Eyes on Jesus: Better Than a Poke In the Eye"*

Text: Mark 14:1-9

OFFERING:

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

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 BLESSING:

CLOSING HYMN:

"Abide with Me! Fast Falls the Eventide"
(Verses 1, 2 and 8)

TLH 552

Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, Oh, abide with me!

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Preacher: Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Guitarist: Sue Fuqua

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"*Abide with Me! Fast Falls the Eventide*" TLH 552 (Verses 1, 2 and 8). Text: Public Domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sunday at Holy Cross begins at **10:00 am** with Adult Bible Study (Parish Hall) and Sunday School (Youth Room for 7th - 9th Graders & Classroom 3 for elementary students).
- Worship Service then follows, beginning at **11:00 am** outside the Parish Hall.



LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE

The Midweek Lenten Worship season is 'kicked off' this week by Ash Wednesday. In addition to the in-person devotional gathering for the Imposition of Ashes at Holy Cross today at 12:30 pm, **Bethany Lutheran will be hosting an on-line Ash Wednesday service via Zoom at 7pm(*)**.

"Eyes on Jesus" is our Midweek Lenten theme this year.

We will be gathering on-line (via Facebook live and Zoom) on Wednesday evenings at 7pm for the Midweek Lenten Services hosted by Bethany Lutheran(*).

If you plan to join the online Midweek Lenten Services, **you can pick up your Lenten series packet today or contact the Church Office (hcsecretary@yahoo.com or 714/527-7225)**. These packets have items and information used each week in worship.

Also if you'd like to **"fix your eyes on Jesus"** each day during Lent, you can use the link below to purchase a copy of **"Eyes on Jesus" Lenten Devotional**. Cost is \$2.49 - \$2.99 depending on type (paperback, amazon/kindle, applebooks).

<https://www.cph.org/p-33591-eyes-on-jesus-daily-devotions-for-lent-and-easter-ebook-edition.aspx>

The weekly texts for the Lenten Season are:

- 2/17 Mark 14:1-11 "Better Than a Poke in the Eye"
- 2/24 Mark 14:27-31 "Eye Contact"
- 3/3 Mark 14:32-42 "Shut Eye"
- 3/10 Mark 14:43-47 "More Than Meets the Eye"
- 3/17 Mark 14:53-65 "Eye Candy"
- 3/24 Mark 15:1-20 "The Eyes of the Heart"

(*) Join Zoom Meeting hosted by Bethany Lutheran

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88210795871?pwd=akRUSW5mdytSZ3hTWmIzNTthVVKpzUT09>
Meeting ID: 882 1079 5871, Passcode: Jesus