

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church on this Ash Wednesday. In the light of our Covid-19 protocols, please review some of our guidelines below.

Masks must be worn. We have some available to take if you don't have one. Some are cloth masks and can be taken home to wash and reuse. There are also disposable masks.

Please do not congregate in the Narthex (entrance area) either as you arrive or leave.

To minimize direct contact, we will use the outside aisles only for entry and exit. The center aisle will be used for communion, special needs, or emergency exit.

Ushers will fill the pews from the front to the back of the church and dismiss from the back to the front. Please follow their directions. We are sorry everyone cannot have their usual seat.

NOTE: We can speak the congregational responses behind our masks. Dr. Tony will provide music. The service will be recorded and published to the website. We are now live streaming the service on our church website, www.firststjohn.com

Elders will wear gloves. You can get a bulletin at the check-in table when you walk in. Please do not leave your bulletin in the pew when you exit; take it home or put it in the recycling bin at the front door.

There is a small wooden church just to the right of the main door when you come in. It has a slot for your offering.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take the left set of steps down. The ladies room is at one end of the hallway, and the men's room is at the other. Return to the Narthex using the opposite set of stairs. Please, one person only in the restroom area.

Diaper Changing: A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

**First St. John Lutheran Church
2471 Seaman St.
Toledo, OH 43605
419-691-7222 or 419-691-9524**

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor
Dr. Anthony Pattin, Organist
Annette Slater, Music Director

April 1, 2021 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Dr. Pattin

(The Congregation stands)

Opening Hym *"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"* No. 461

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P: Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come.
He entered once for all into the holy places,

C: by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

P: Therefore, He is the mediator of a new covenant,

C: so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion.

C: Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us;

P: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

P: Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His

body to eat and His blood to drink. It is the meal of the new covenant. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves; but when we do, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us and by His sacrifice for us took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve. By His death, He offers us full and free forgiveness.

Let us then confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

P: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C: Yes.

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in T peace.

C: Amen

(The Congregation is seated)

The Service of the Word

First Reading: A reading from Exodus 12:1–14 *(The Passover is to be observed each year)*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of

people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly.

It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

P: O Lord have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

First Reading: A reading from 1 Corinthians 11:23–32 (*We partake of the New Covenant*)

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. Partaking of the Supper Unworthily

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves.

(The Congregation stands for the reading of the Gospel)

Gospel Acclamation (*Spoken*)

P: Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful,

C: **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark chapter 14.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 14:12–26 (*Jesus institutes the New Covenant*)

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, “Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.” So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

Gospel Response (*Spoken*)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(The Congregation is seated)

Sermon “Meal to Meal: The Passover to the Lord’s Supper” Pastor Rayl

Hymn “Bread of Life from Heaven” (verses 1-4) No. 474

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Musical Offertory

Dr. Pattin

(The Congregation stands)

Offertory Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that, where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

**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.**

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The Communion *(distribution will be by continuous serving)*

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“All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord’s table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing.”

(When coming to receive Communion, please fill out a Communion registration card located in the pew rack and give it to the usher.)

(After all have communed, please stand)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you
in God’s grace.

C: **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

P: Lord God, in a wonderful sacrament you have left us a memorial of your suffering and death. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the way we live will proclaim the redemption you have brought; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you And be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

(The congregation is seated) – 11:00 am Only)

**THE PASSION HISTORY
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Reading — Part 6**

(The congregation is seated) – 7:00 pm Only)

Please remain seated as the Altar will be stripped. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of His power and glory, is now in the hands of His captors. No further words are said. It is all one extended service from Maundy Thursday through Good Friday to Easter.

**The Church is left in semi-darkness and
all leave the church in silence.**

Thus, the transition is made from the celebration of Holy Communion to Jesus’ crucifixion and death on Good Friday.

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us in the name of Jesus Christ.

ELDERS:

Sign of Death and Life

Soaring buildings of steel and concrete--these can smolder into ravines of ash. Damp, green forests of moss-cloaked trees can burn into ash-covered skeletal remains. Mountain peaks can detonate from buried, churning cauldrons that carry ash skyward and drop it on meadows and beaches miles away. Fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters--they too give bones and flesh, warm blood and familiar voice over to ash. "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust" says the pastor, standing by a hole in the ground. There is a place like this for all of us.

An uncomfortable gloominess pesters us on this day, Ash Wednesday. Without hesitation the sober announcement finds our ears and more importantly our hearts: "Remember that you are dust." Many of us will be marked on our brows with the same symbol that signed us at our baptism. The sign of the cross will be impressed upon our flesh. However today the imprint is gray ash, the remains of dying embers, and not the oil of anointing for someone freshly risen from baptismal water.

How is it that we come to this place of worship and take on this awfully transformed symbol? The joyous, watery, baptismal birth mark is changed into the fearful, gritty Ash Wednesday death mark. Is there not enough ruin and sorrow in our lives and in our world without welcoming its imprint here in worship?

Yet isn't it precisely here that we need to encounter this sign of mortality? Here, in the shadow of the cross, we can accept this truth. For to honestly face our death is to begin meeting the wonder of life in Christ. "Send me the grace my spirit needs," we pray with Martin Luther (LBW 295), "without it I am nothing." To admit that we are indeed helplessly sinful, sliding toward death, is the first step toward repentance and reclaiming our baptismal birthright.