

Ash Wednesday Services

Faith Lutheran Church

1326 East Cedar Street – Seguin, Texas – Phone:830-379-7036

Email: office@faithseguin.org – www.faithseguin.org

February 24, 2021

Noon and 7:00 PM

(Rescheduled from February 17)



WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday is one of the most solemn and soul-searching liturgies of the whole year. Here we stand at the start of Lent, ready to contemplate our Lord Jesus as he follows his path toward the Cross for our salvation. The Son of God came as a man— soon to give his life for our sake! Ash Wednesday is a time to consider how to be like him, and to contemplate how Jesus prayed, and fasted and gave his life in kindness and generosity as a model for our lives.

We are on this earth for only a brief span of time. This is a time to reflect how we might take our life in Jesus Christ more seriously and live more faithfully so that the whole world might come to faith in Him and call upon His Name and be saved.

Romans 6:3-7 tells us, “Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.”

Please Stand

OPENING HYMN: “*My Song Is Love Unknown*” Verses 1 & 4

(Please see following page.)

My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

PSALM 51:1-13 *(Read Responsively - Congregation Reads Bold Print)*

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy

blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before 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 judgment.

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive 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 whiter than snow.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You love all that You have created and You forgive the sins of those who come to You with humble and contrite hearts.

C: Create in us honest hearts, so that we might repent of our sins, and have the joy of receiving full pardon and forgiveness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please Be Seated

READING: PSALM 34

SERMON

HYMN: "Jesus Paid it All" Verses 1 & 4

1) I hear the Savior say: "Their strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray; Find in Me thine all in all."

Refrain

Jesus paid it all; All to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow.

4) And when before the throne I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat. *Refrain*

INVITATION To REPENTANCE and ACTIONS of REPENTANCE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it was the custom in the early Church to prepare for the suffering and death of Christ on Good Friday and for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord with special worship and acts of repentance and faith. Our services are intended to remind us of our need to renew our repentance and grow in our faith and be the merciful people Christ has prepared us to be.

I invite you to observe this season of Lent by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, by reading God's holy Word, and by giving of yourself and substance as God leads you to special ministries of mercy and kindness. To begin this journey of repentance let us now humble ourselves before the Lord who is good and who loves a heart turned in dependence and need.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love — the discipline of Lent — help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

P: Gracious Heavenly Father,

C: **We confess to you that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit,

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C: **We confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

C: **We confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C: **We confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our unhealthy love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C: **We confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C: **We confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: **We confess to you, Lord.**

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

C: **We confess to you, Lord.**

P: For our lack of care for your creation and for our indifference for its well being,

C: **We confess to you, Lord.**

P: We shelter under the cross of Christ, receive with joy His righteousness and wash our robes, our life and deeds with the Blood of Jesus Christ shed for the complete forgiveness of our sins.

C: **Amen, Amen and Amen!**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: Almighty God, You saved us from sin, though we struggle with its power in our lives. May these ashes be a sign of our sorrow over our sin and rebellion and may they also remind us of the cross of Christ by which we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

(Those who wish to receive ashes may come forward one at a time, via the center aisle and return to your pew from the side.)

(Each forehead is marked with ashes and oil as a sign of repentance from sin and a turning to God in faith and hope that the cross of Christ gives us in the power of the Holy Spirit, with the words, "You

have died with Christ in baptism, so that you might be raised with Him to the glory of God.”)

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

P: Blessed be the Lord our God of all faithfulness. By your grace we receive all that we need, and in this abundance may we faithfully share with all in good stewardship, this that you have first given us. Receive this offering to the glory of your Holiness and the work of Jesus Christ in the world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift the to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary. It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: *Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and
forever.

C: Amen

P: Together we pray:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven...

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

"The body of Christ, given for you."

"The blood of Christ, shed for you."

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

C: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed
us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray
that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this
gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one
another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

CLOSING HYMN: "*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*" (Verses 1, 4)

1) In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

4) Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

BENEDICTION