

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Pastor - Rev. Paul Krentz Church (952) 955-1498, Home (952) 955-5097
Preaching Assistant - Rev. Gerald Schwanke 1-320-282-9838

CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL:

Principal - Jeff Boehlke (952) 955-1419

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL:

Executive Director - Joel Landskroener (952) 657-2251

ASH WEDNESDAY

WELCOME to all who are visiting today! Our greatest desire is to share that wonderful message of forgiveness and eternal salvation for all in Jesus' name. We pray you will be drawn closer to Christ as the Holy Spirit nurtures us through God's Word in this service. Before you leave, please, take time to sign our guest register in the entrance way, and we hope you will join us every week as we gather as God's family in worship.

WELCOME

SONG: "Vespers Evening Prayer"

1. O Maker of the world give ear; That holy season now is here
When we, who discipline endure, May from all evil find a cure.
 2. Our sins are manifold and sore, But pardon those who sin deplore,
And free us from its binding chain, Who seek for You and turn again.
 3. Teach us through self-control to find, In body and in heart and mind.
A holy use of all You give, that we in richer joy may live.
 4. Thereby for us this lent may be, A time of growth in sanctity,
A time of walking in your ways, Throughout its holy forty days.
 5. Let all the world from shore to shore, Your gracious Trinity, adore;
And may these forty days of Lent, In penitence and praise be spent.
- (Public Domain)*

INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP:

- P. Look to the Lord.
C. WE LOOK TO THE LORD WITH THANKSGIVING, OUR GOD OF UNENDING
MERCY AND LOVE.
P. Look to the Lord for transformation.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Continuous line Communion – please approach the altar to receive Communion by the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle.)

BLESSING:

- P. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
C. THAT UNDESERVED LOVE HE DEMONSTRATED FOR US ON THE CROSS, AS
HE DIED TO PAY FOR ALL OUR SINS.
P. The love of God the Father,
C. WHICH MOVED HIM TO SEND JESUS AS OUR SAVIOR.
P. And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
C. THE ONE AT WORK IN OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE WORD AND
SACRAMENTS TO STIR FAITH, SUSTAIN FAITH, AND BRING US THE
FORGIVENESS AND SALVATION FOUND ONLY IN CHRIST.
P. May the fellowship of the Triune God be with you all.
C. AMEN.

HYMN: #552 "Abide with Me" v. 1,8

ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE

(Please return the Passion History insert to an Usher as you leave. Thanks!)

C. WE LOOK TO THE LORD WITH ANTICIPATION, WHO LEADS US FROM DEATH TO LIFE.

P. Look to the Lord for healing.

C. WE LOOK TO THE LORD IN FAITH, IN JESUS CHRIST WE SEE THE LAMB OF SACRIFICE.

P. Look to the Lord.

C. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE GLORY OF THE CROSS.

CONFESSION OF SIN:

P. But we have sinned. We have wounded God by our actions, our thoughts, and our failures to act and do good.

C. #388 *"Just as I Am, without One Plea" v. 1,2*

P. Our sins are many and inevitable in our weakness. We have sworn falsely and cursed. We have not worshipped as we ought. We have not listened to your Word. We have denied You when confronted by the ways of our society. We have ignored You, O Lord.

C. #388 *"Just as I Am, without One Plea" v. 3*

P. We have acted spitefully to friends and to strangers. We have fought with our family. We have been impatient with those less capable than ourselves. We have sought superiority over others at work and school. We have done evil with the words we speak.

C. #388 *"Just as I Am, without One Plea" v. 4*

P. We have not helped care for others. We have not shown compassion to the person in sorrow. We have not always gone out of our way to help those in need. We have not forgiven those who hurt us. We have not loved as You bid us to do.

C. #388 *"Just as I Am, without One Plea" v. 5,6*

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

READING OF THE PASSION HISTORY: *(See insert)*

Anthem: *"Behold the Lamb" Adult Choir*

SERMON: Matthew 27:50-52 **"The Miracle of the Splitting Rocks"**

(A sermon outline with the Scripture reading is printed on the back of the bulletin to aid your meditation on God's Word)

OFFERING + RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

(Please sign fellowship book at end of pew.)

Anthem: *"Jesus Paid it All" Adult Choir*

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SONG: *"The Lamb"*

1. The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice? Faith sees, believes, God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain: Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

2. The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering. The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. *(Refrain)*

3. The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill. So still, His will, On our behalf the Law to fill. *(Refrain)*

4. He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness. He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. *(Refrain)*

5. He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows. His song prolong 'Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. *(Refrain)*

(C. 1997 Morningstar Music. Used by permission.)

THOSE DESIRING COMMUNION: *The Bible teaches under the bread and wine of Communion Jesus gives His real body and blood to assure us of forgiveness. (Mt 26:26-28) It also teaches in receiving this meal together, we are by that act professing a unity of faith with the church at whose altar we commune. (1 Cor 10: 16-21) While Communion is meant as a blessing, we can however misuse it to our harm. Those who eat without repentance or recognizing the presence of Jesus' body and blood sin against the Lord. (1 Cor 11:27-29). Also, when fellowship at this meal is practiced with others who hold beliefs contrary to God's Word, the church is weakened and the truth God tells us to guard is compromised. (Ro 16:17, 2 Thess 3:14) In an effort to avoid these sins and follow God's Word, before communing anyone we first seek to teach them about Christ's meal, and have them make a public profession of their agreement with us in the faith. As a matter of loving spiritual care then, not judgment, we invite to commune with us today confirmed members in good standing of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or the American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) who have received instruction, and by current membership in one of these sister churches confess a unity of faith with us here at St. Paul's.*

NON-ALCOHOLIC COMMUNION WINE: *Out of consideration for those who have difficulty with alcohol a few glasses in the center ring of each Communion tray contain non-alcoholic white wine.*

Matthew 27:50-52

"The Miracle of the Splitting Rocks"

*50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and **the rocks split**. 52 The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.*

1. Why don't the rocks splitting at Jesus' death seem like a miracle?

2. What proves that the splitting of these rocks was in fact a miracle?

3. Splitting rocks serve as a sign of _____.

4. In what way was Jesus "split" as our Savior?

5. Why do we tend to focus on the physical pain Jesus endured as he died?

6. How does God help us grasp the magnitude of the spiritual pain Jesus suffered for us?

7. Splitting rocks also serve as a sign of God's _____.

8. What was God really providing his people with when he gave them water from a split rock in the desert?

9. Why is Jesus sometimes referred to as the "water of life"?

10. What's the real miracle of the rocks that split at Jesus' death?



ASH
Wednesday