Welcome
Ash Wednesday
Places of the Passion
a series of services for the Season of Lent
February 17, 2021

UNION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally-Grounded - Congregationally Focused
4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146
(704) 636-5092 ~ http://ulcsalisbury.org

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please remember to practice social distancing)
10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

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A charter congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
Welcome to this Ash Wednesday Service, as we walk with Jesus

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PRELUDE  Hymn 487, vs 1

Please stand as you are able.
The organ silently introduces and leads the Congregation through the 1st verse of Hymn 487

C  Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love. Let us do the Father’s bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

The organ continues to play even softer as the psalm is read

INTROIT: Psalm 51:1-19

P  Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
  2Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.

The congregation continues praying the psalm in unison

C  3For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
  4Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
  5And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.
  6Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.
  7For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
  8Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
  9Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
  10Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.
  11Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
  12Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
  13Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
  14I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.
  15Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt offerings. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Be favorable and gracious to Zion, and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Most holy, and merciful Father,

we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have not always walked with you or followed in your ways. We have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

we confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

we confess to you, Lord.
Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
accept our repentance, Lord.
For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
accept our repentance, Lord.
For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us. Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. We want to follow where you guide us. Amen.

Please be seated.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES
Those who desire to receive ashes are asked to come forward down the center aisle and kneel or stand before the altar. The minister will apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister will lead the congregation in the conclusion of the confession. (Please be mindful to keep a safe distance between each other) After receiving the ashes please return down the side aisle and remain quietly and reflective in your pew.

Please stand as able, once invited by Pastor to do so.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world. And walk in your ways.
By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

1 O Lord, through-out these for-ty days You prayed and kept the fast;
2 You strove with Sa-tan, and you won; Your faith-ful-ness en-dured;
3 Though parched and hun- gry, yet you prayed And fixed your mind a- bove;
4 Be with us through this sea-son, Lord, And all our earth-ly days,
The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. 4 And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, 6 and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. 7 “Then 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. 8 They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. 10 And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11 In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Please be seated.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.
The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 26th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:1-5

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Heidi Punt

Jerusalem is the place of the Passover, where Jesus gathers with the crowds.

Please stand as you are able.

Savior, When in Dust to You

1 Savior, when in dust to you Low we bow in homage due;
2 By your helpless infant years, By your life of want and tears,
3 By your hour of dire despair, By your agony of prayer,
4 By your deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,

When repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
By your days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,

Please be seated.
NICENE CREED

P We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

C We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

P We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

C We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen
THE PRAYERS
P  Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

The prayers conclude:
P  Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C  Amen

THE PEACE
In an attempt to be vigilant and responsible, please use Hand Sanitizers provided at each entrance. Please refrain from shaking hands and reserve a little space between one another. Nods, elbows, or gentle pat on the shoulders, etc., are welcome!
P  The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C  And also with you.

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS
The Offering is received as the Lord’s Table is prepared.

SPECIAL MUSIC
Please stand as you are able.
OFFERTORY PRAYER

P    Blessed are you,
C  O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P    It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C  Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might:
Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P  In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.
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  

THE 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

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

As the minister gives the bread and wine, and says these words to each communicant:
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
The communicant may say: Amen

At Union Evangelical Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday.
All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please follow the directions of the Ushers.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Please stand as you are able.

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

CANTICLE

A post-communion canticle or an appropriate hymn or song may be sung.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; 
grant us peace.

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen
PRAYER
The following or a similar post-communion prayer is said.

P Let us pray. 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 fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

BLESSING
The minister blesses the congregation, using this or another appropriate blessing.

P Jesus invites us to walk with him to Jerusalem, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

C Let us ever walk with Jesus!

Take My Life, that I May Be

1 Take my life, that I may be Con-scra-ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im-pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on-ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil-ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold;

5 Take my will and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine.
   Take my heart, it is thine own;
   It shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure store;
   Take myself, and I will be
   Ever, only, all for thee.

POSTLUDE

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) Setting 11 (page 77-97)
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