



THE
crucial
Hours



New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

Pastor Andrew Bauer
(847) 438-5018

www.newlife-wels.org

+++++

Ash Wednesday **March 2, 2022**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us this evening. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home this evening, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this evening's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer: We come with a deep sense of our guilt before You, O Lord, and plead nothing but Your mercy, and the love of Jesus, our Savior. You know that we are dust, and have no power of ourselves. We have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. But God, we return, confessing our sins, and renouncing them, praying for grace to be faithful and true. With the help of Your Holy Spirit may we no more be led by our passions and evil desires. Through Your Word and Sacraments help us in this season of Lent to overcome our failings, and give all our powers of mind and body to You for Your service. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

This evening's service: Christian Worship Occasional Services, NPH, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #11327771.

The congregation gathers in silence.

The Lenten Banner is hung.

Remain Seated

Opening Hymn: "Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes"

**Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes As another Lent begins
Thus we kneel before our Maker In contrition for our sins
We have marred baptismal pledges In rebellion gone astray
Now returning seek forgiveness Grant us pardon God this day!**

**We have failed to love our neighbors Their offenses to forgive
Have not listened to their troubles Nor have cared just how they live,
We are jealous, proud, impatient, and have loved too much our things
May confession for our failings Be our Lenten offerings.**

**We are hasty to judge others, Blind to proof of human need;
And our lack of understanding Demonstrates our inner greed;
We have wasted earth's resources Want and suffering we've ignored
Come and cleanse us then restore us Make new hearts within us Lord**

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Instructions for the Beginning of Lent

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with Him, to love all humanity and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under His judgment but to turn to Him and live. Therefore, God in His mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in Him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of His resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Confession of Sins

P: Most holy and merciful Father.

C: We confess to You and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous 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 the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to You, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The past pride, hypocrisy and impatience in our lives

C: We confess to You, O Lord.

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

C: We confess to You, O Lord.

P: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

C: We confess to You, O Lord.

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

C: We confess to You, O Lord.

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

C: We confess to You, O Lord.

P: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

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

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

P: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with Your will

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let Your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for Your mercy is great.

Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward at the direction of the Pastor.

Imposition of Ashes

The Pastor applies ashes to the forehead of those who desire ashes in the form of a small cross saying:

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After all who desire have received ashes, the Pastor says:

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of salvation

C: That we may show forth Your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and suffering of Your Son, O Lord,

C: Bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

Absolution

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and His Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in true faith and at the last be received by Him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Evening:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made, and forgive the sins of all who repent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness. We pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: ISAIAH 59:12-20 *(The flood of offense has driven back justice, leaving the sinner cut off from righteousness. Appalled, literally desolated and ravaged in spirit, at our plight, it is the Lord who intervenes for the sake of righteousness. Seeing none of it in us and no one to work it for us, the Lord comes with His own flood of righteousness to sweep away His enemies and bring salvation to repentant hearts.)*

¹² For our offenses are many in Your sight,
and our sins testify against us.

Our offenses are ever with us,
and we acknowledge our iniquities:

¹³ rebellion and treachery against the LORD,
turning our backs on our God,
inciting revolt and oppression,
uttering lies our hearts have conceived.

¹⁴ So justice is driven back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets,
honesty cannot enter.

¹⁵ Truth is nowhere to be found,
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.
The LORD looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.

¹⁶ He saw that there was no one,
He was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so His own arm achieved salvation for Him,
and His own righteousness sustained Him.

¹⁷ He put on righteousness as His breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on His head;
He put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped Himself in zeal as in a cloak.

¹⁸ According to what they have done,
so will He repay
wrath to His enemies
and retribution to His foes;
He will repay the islands their due.

¹⁹ From the west, people will fear the name of the LORD,

and from the rising of the sun, they will revere His glory.
For He will come like a pent-up flood
that the breath of the LORD drives along.
²⁰ “The Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,”
declares the LORD. (NIV 2011)

Psalm of the Evening: Psalm 51a (tune, Gethsemane)

**God, be merciful to me, on Your grace I rest my plea;
Your compassions overflow, blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.**

**My transgressions I confess, grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against Your grace and provoked You to Your face;
I confess Your judgement just, speechless, in Your mercy trust.**

**I am evil, born in sin; You desire all truth within.
You alone my Savior are, teach Your wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Your grace bestow, wash me whiter than the snow.**

**Broken, humbled to the dust by Your wrath and judgement just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice and in gladness hear Your voice;
From my sins, O hide Your face, blot them out in boundless grace.**

**Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true;
Let me not abandoned be, let Your Spirit dwell in me;
Your salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.**

**Sinners then shall learn from me and to God restored shall be;
Savior, all my guilt remove, and my tongue shall sing Your love;
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise accord.**

**No attempted sacrifice has acceptance in Your eyes;
Broken hearts are in Your sight more than sacrificial rite;
Contrite spirit, pleading cries, You O God, will not despise.**

**Prosper Zion in Your grace and her broken walls replace;
Then our righteous sacrifice shall delight Your holy eyes;
Freewill offerings, gladly made, on Your altar shall be laid.**

The Second Lesson: REVELATION 3:14-22 (The Lord's indictment of the Laodiceans hits home. Neither hot nor cold, so often we go through the motions of the Christian life: lukewarm. Yet our Savior still stands at the door and knocks, waiting for our repentance. The One who was faithful and true in our place wants all to repent, that the penitent might then have the right to sit with Him on the throne.)

¹⁴“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

¹⁹Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me.

²¹To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²²Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (NIV 2011)

Verse of the Evening: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.



Called to re - mem - ber in this Len - ten - tide



How for all sin our bless - ed Sav - ior died,



In dust and ash - es, voic - es joined in prayer,



We turn to Christ and seek for - give - ness there.

Stand

The Gospel Lesson: LUKE 18:9-14 (Pointing to the offense of others, the Pharisee dares to stand before the throne of almighty God and justify His presence in God's kingdom. Such self-exalting champions of "righteousness" will be humbled. But those who humble themselves before the Lord's throne of grace will be justified and declared truly righteous before Him.)

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (NIV 2011)

Sit

Sermon Hymn: CWS 738 "In Hopelessness and Near Despair"

The Sermon Text: Matthew 27:3,4

³When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴"I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." (NIV 2011)

The Sermon Theme: What to Remember When You are Seized with Remorse

The Offering

The Prayer of the Evening

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P: Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, hear us.

C: **O Christ, graciously hear us.**

P: O God the Father in heaven; O God the Son, Redeemer of the world; O God the Holy Spirit:

C: **Have mercy upon us.**

P: O God, who takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live;
who called Adam and Eve after their fall to the acknowledgment of their fault and to true repentance;
who forgave the sins of Your disobedient people at the prayer of Moses;
who put away David's transgression when he confessed and repented of his sin;
who spared the Ninevites when they repented in sackcloth and with fasting;
who came into the world to save sinners;
who received tax collectors and sinners and ate with them;
who forgave the many sins of Mary Magdalene;
who in mercy looked upon Peter who denied You;
who moved him to confess his fault and to shed tears of penitence;
who on the cross promised Paradise to the penitent thief;
who bore our sins in Your own body on the tree;
who was bruised for our iniquities;
who gives time and place for the repentance of our sins;
who rebukes and chastens those whom You love;
who is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance;
who came to seek and to save the lost;
who after true repentance remembers our sins no more:
C: Be gracious, and spare us, O Lord.

P: From all evil; from all sin; from a sudden and wicked death; by Your Baptism and Your holy fasting; by Your toils and griefs; by Your blood which was shed for the forgiveness of our sins; in the day of tribulation and anguish and of Your awful judgment:
C: Good Lord, deliver us.

P: We sinners ask You to hear us:
that it may please You to bring us to true repentance;
that, condemning ourselves, we may escape condemnation;
that we may in due time bring forth worthy fruit of penitence;
that as we have let our bodies and our minds become servants of uncleanness and sin, so we may now yield them to You as servants of righteousness and holiness;
that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we may live sober, righteous, and godly lives;
that we may exercise self-control on our bodies and bring them into submission to Your will;
that sin may not be our master;
that we do not let ourselves be instruments of unrighteousness;
that as true members of the body of Christ we crucify our flesh with its passions and lusts;
that all bitterness and wrath and anger be put away from us;
that we may never despise the riches of Your goodness, patience, and long-suffering;
that we may count all things as loss but for Christ;
that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness;
that through the many tribulations of this world You would grant us entrance into the kingdom of God;

that it may please You graciously to hear us:

C: O Son of God, we ask You to hear us.

P: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: Spare us, O Lord.

P: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: Graciously hear us, O Lord.

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

P: Almighty God, we are dust and to dust we shall return, yet even in ashes and dust there is hope. Marked with the sign of the cross in our baptism and bearing the good fruit of repentance and faith, we pray You not to forsake Your children but to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that the words which we have spoken may be accompanied by actions of faith and repentance, now and throughout this holy season of Lent; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: CW 405 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

Announcements

Next week Pastor Jacob Shepherd from St. Paul's in Round Lake will serve as guest pastor. The theme for the service is, **"The Crucial Hours—A Part for the Whole."**

The ashes used on our Lenten banner were rendered from the Palm Branches used by the children on Palm Sunday, 2021. They were burned yesterday. Olive oil is added to the ashes.

Thanks to everyone who helped to put together the gift bag for the residents at Auberge prior to the service this evening.

The New Life church council will have a brief meeting after the service this evening.