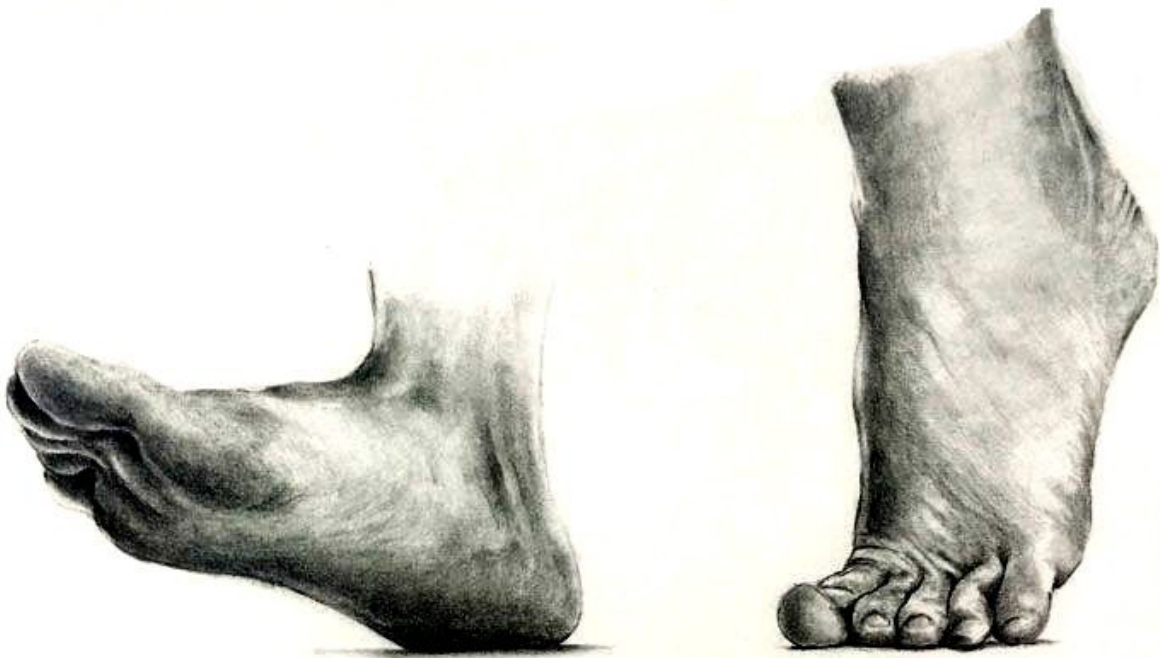


† 40 Days of Walking the Way †
Week 6



Communion:

**Caring
&
Inviting**

✠ Holy Communion ✠

“Deeper Discipleship & Closer Community with Jesus”
St. Luke’s Evangelical Lutheran Church | April 1, 2020

Invocation

Father, Creator of heaven and earth, ✠ **we thank you for your daily love and care.** ✠ Son Jesus, servant of all, ✠ **we follow your example.** ✠ Holy Spirit, presence of life, ✠ **rule and dwell in our hearts and community.** ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ✠ **we surrender our minds, bodies, and whole lives to you.**

(we make the sign of the cross, touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

Into your loving hands ✠ **we place our worries, stresses, and burdens.** ✠ In stillness and patience ✠ **we wait on you in all things.**

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is present among us)

♪ *Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.* ♪ (tune: GC2 23, twice)

Remembering Our Baptism Journey

Our heavenly Father makes us his children through Baptism as he puts to death Civilization's Way of control within us and then raises us to Jesus's Way of faithful obedience. We pray that he continues and completes this work of Baptism within us, as we daily leave everything behind to find true life in the word and story of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ✠ **Amen.**

♪ *Lord, baptize us and wash away our sin. Lord, baptize us and change our hearts within. Lord, baptize us and grow our discipline. Lord, we praise you, for all that you do!* ♪ *Lord, baptize us to never be afraid. Lord, baptize us to love all you have made. Lord, baptize us to share your help and aid. Lord, we praise you, for all that you do!* ♪ (tune: LSB 677)

Prayer of the Day

Father, help us to ✠ **daily walk the Way of Jesus.**

Help us to ✠ **daily embrace our Baptism journey of dying & rising.**

Help us to ✠ **daily Repent through listening, confessing, letting go, & following.**

Help us to ✠ **daily Commune through worshiping, sharing, caring, & inviting.**

Father, help us to ✠ **daily entrust our lives into your hands. Amen.**

Song ✠ *LSB 418 “O Lord, throughout the Forty Days”*

♪ *O Lord, throughout the forty days your focus was to pray. You lived by faith and left behind Civilization's Way.*

♪ *You were tempted to take control, but you would not give in. You knew that pow'r and wealth come from the evil way of sin.*

♪ *In weakness and fragility, you trusted God above. Please teach us to deny ourselves and imitate your love.*

♪ We trust that you will give us strength to learn from you each day. Be with us as we follow you and walk Jesus's Way.

† The Word of God †

Preparing to Listen

We gather at the feet of our Lord Jesus, listening to his word and allowing it to change and shape our minds, decisions, and lives. *♪ Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind. ♪ (tune: LSB 770)*

Reading ✕ John 13:34-35

The reading comes from John 13. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of our Creator. ✕ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

“Caring” Litany

The Creator's work of Baptism ✕ **is received through the practice of caring.**
As the Body of Christ ✕ **we support the needs and health of each member.**
We care by ✕ **respecting the leaders of the church who proclaim the truth.**
We honor and submit to them ✕ **as to the Lord himself.**
But we only follow the teachers ✕ **whose words and lives match that of Jesus.**
We care by ✕ **helping every member get all their needs met.**
We pay attention to each member ✕ **to learn about their unique needs.**
We trust that the Creator ✕ **knows and will take care of our every need.**
We care by ✕ **guiding each other on the journey of daily Repentance.**
We are mutually vulnerable ✕ **and hold each other accountable.**
We approach each other ✕ **first by going one-on-one.**
By daily caring for each other ✕ **we embody Jesus's own love for us.**
This love for each other ✕ **reveals that we are truly Jesus's followers.**

Song ✕ *LSB 711 “Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

♪ Savior like a shepherd lead us, much we need your guiding care. In your pleasant pastures feed us, for your use do us prepare. Love each other, love each other, teach us how to love and share.

♪ We are yours and you befriend us, be the guardian of our days. Keep your flock from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray. Love each other, love each other, teach us how to walk your Way.

♪ You have promised to receive us, poor and broken though we be. You have mercy, to relieve us, grace to cleanse and pow'r to free. Love each other, love each other, teach how we can be free.

♪ You have promised your divine peace, let us now be calm and still. Let our patience always increase, with your true rest our lives fill. Love each other, love each other, teach us to wait on your will.

Reading ✕ Matthew 10:7-15

The reading comes from Matthew 10. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of our Creator. ✠ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

“Inviting” Litany

The Creator’s work of Baptism ✠ **is received through the practice of inviting.**
Life in the Body of Christ ✠ **is the greatest gift we can offer to others.**
Though it is messy and difficult ✠ **Jesus’s church is heaven on earth.**
The Body of Christ ✠ **is a life-changing community where we painfully and beautifully grow in ways we cannot elsewhere.**
Finding our place within the Body of Christ ✠ **is what we were all made for.**
We invite all people ✠ **to leave the isolating hell of the Way of Civilization.**
So they can join us ✠ **in the heaven of the Way of Jesus.**
We invite all people ✠ **to find belonging, identity, and love in our church.**
If they submit to Jesus ✠ **then we welcome all people, no matter who they are.**
We bring this gift to others ✠ **by living a patient life of free giving and receiving.**
We bring this gift to others ✠ **by Baptizing them into the Body of Christ.**
We bring this gift to others ✠ **by teaching them to obey all Jesus teaches.**

Song ✠ *LSB 844 “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”*

Message

Reflection & Repentance

Let us reflect on how the word of Jesus is speaking into our lives this day.

(silence for reflection)

For not respecting the leaders of your church, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For not helping our brothers and sisters in Christ, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For not holding each other accountable to the words of Jesus, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For not inviting others to join our church, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For not being faithful witnesses to the Way of Jesus, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For not being hospitable to all people, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ *Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.* ♪ (tune: LSB 449)

Will you leave behind the Way of Civilization and walk in the Way of Jesus?
✠ **Yes, I renounce the Way of Civilization and pledge my full allegiance to Jesus.** ✠ Our heavenly Father heals all those who return to his loving arms. You are forgiven and set free from all slavery to live life in the Way of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! ✠ **Amen.**

Benediction

May the Lord bless you with humility, reminding you that you are but dust. May he forgive and release you from your brokenness and addictions. May he shape you into the loving and trusting character and image of Jesus. In the

name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Song ☩ ***LSB 424 "O Christ, You Walked the Road"***