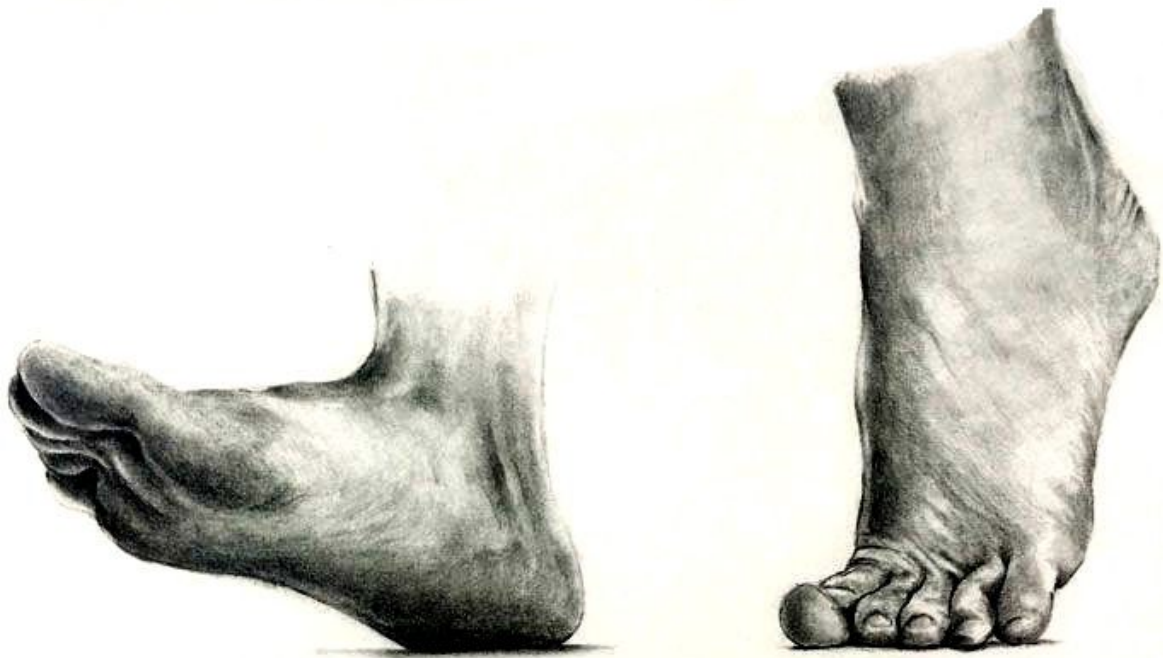


† 40 Days of Walking the Way †
Week 1



Baptism — The Way of Faith:
Surrendering to the Creator

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | February 17, 2021

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 church.** ✠ 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)

Baptism — The Way of Faith

The Creator wants to save all of his creation from Civilization.

✠ **So the Creator is calling me to let go of the Way of Civilization and become a lifelong disciple who follows the Way of Jesus.**

But breaking free from your addictions to the Way of Civilization is scary, painful, and difficult to imagine.

✠ **It means the death and rebirth of my entire self and life.**

Only the Creator can accomplish this through his sacraments.

✠ **In the sacrament of Baptism, which begins with water and his word, the Creator immerses me into his story and life.**

Through his lifelong work of Baptism, the Creator

✠ **daily destroys my old life in the Way of Civilization, forgives and releases me from it, and resurrects me into a new life on the Way of Jesus.**

The Creator is rebuilding your life around Jesus-centered habits, patterns, and disciplines.

✠ **I receive the Creator’s work of Baptism through Faith.**

♪ *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 for the Way

Father, help us to

✠ **daily walk on Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love.**

Help us to live by Faith and in our Baptism

✠ **by surrendering & listening to the Creator.**

Help us to live by Hope and in Repentance

✘ **by confronting our past & waiting on the Creator.**

Help us to live by Love and in Communion

✘ **by sharing with the church & caring for all creation.**

Father, help us to

✘ **daily follow Jesus in all things. 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. ♪

† Surrendering to the Creator †

Surrendering Litany

The first practice of Faith

✘ **is surrendering.**

Through surrendering

✘ **I begin to die to the ego-centered and satanic Way of Civilization.**

Life is no longer about

✘ **me, my family, or my nation.**

Life is about

✘ **the Creator and all of his creation.**

♪ Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy. ♪ Take my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♪ Take my things and my money, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how, to love all creation now. ♪
(tune: LSB 783)

Reading ✘ 1 Peter 2:11-25

The reading comes from 1 Peter 2. ✘ **We listen with open hearts.**

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

"Letting Go of Control & Following with Submission" Litany

Do not try to control

✘ **and be in charge of life and death.**

Do not judge for yourself

✘ **what is good and bad.**

Do not break the natural limits

✘ **and order of the creation.**

Submit to the Creator

✘ **and his Rule over all of life and death.**

Admit that you

✘ **are powerless.**

In all situations let the Creator alone

✘ **guide your direction and plans.**

Song ✘ *LSB 570 “Just As I Am”*

♪ Just as I am, without one plea, but that you gave your life for me. I need for you to set me free. Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come. ♪

♪ Just as I am, though tossed about, with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without. Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come. ♪

♪ Just as I am, poor, empty, blind. So much I need in you to find, sight, purpose, and change to my mind. Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come. ♪

♪ Just as I am, you will receive, will love, forgive, change, and relieve. Now ev'rything behind I leave. Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come. ♪

♪ Just as I am, I say goodbye, to all things on which I rely, for you call me to come and die. Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come. ♪

Reading ✘ 1 Corinthians 1:18—2:16

The reading comes from 1 Corinthians 1. ✘ **We listen with open hearts.**

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

“Letting Go of People-Pleasing & Following with Worship” Litany

Do not serve the expectations, duties, or schedules

✘ **of self, family, or nation.**

Do not seek their

✘ **glory or approval.**

Do not imitate or praise those

✘ **who follow Civilization’s Way and story.**

Seek only the Creator’s approval

✘ **and desires in all you do.**

Praise and thank him

✘ **in every circumstance and situation.**

Proclaim the Creator’s story

✘ **through all your words and actions.**

Song ✘ *LSB 719 “I Leave All Things to God’s Direction”*

♪ I leave all things to God’s direction, he brings good through all that happens. His will and way must always be done, his love is seen in his actions. My fortress and my rock is he. What pleases God, that pleases me.

♪ God knows what must be done to change me, his love for me will never cease. His love is seen as hard times hit me, and also in the times of peace. My Father is always for me. What pleases God, that pleases me. ♪

♪ God wants to save both body and soul, he loves each person as a whole.

Therefore I let go of all control, all that matters is the Lord's goal. His will be done eternally. What pleases God, that pleases me. ♪

♪ My God has all things in his keeping, he is the always faithful friend. He gives me laughter after weeping, and all his ways in blessings end. His love endures eternally. What pleases God, that pleases me. ♪

Reading ✧ 1 John 2:15-17

The reading comes from 1 John 2. ✧ **We listen with open hearts.**

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

“Letting Go of Human Reliance & Following with Trust” Litany

Do not rely on self, family, or nation.

✧ **Do not rely on money or technology.**

Do not rely on Civilization's false promises

✧ **to save you from the wild of creation,**

to love you through its man-made communities,

✧ **to free you through its governments and laws,**

to provide for you through its agriculture and production systems,

✧ **to protect your body through its military and police forces,**

and to improve and extend life for you through its technologies.

✧ **Instead trust in the Creator's power and the work of his hands.**

Trust the Creator over all of Civilization's experts and wisdom.

✧ **Trust that the Creator will**

save you from the hell of Civilization,

✧ **love you through his creatures,**

free you through his teachings,

✧ **provide for you through his creation,**

protect you through his resurrection,

✧ **and give you eternal life through his constant presence.**

Message

Reflection

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

(silence for reflection)

For giving in to our addiction to the Way of Civilization and not surrendering to you, ✧ **Father, forgive us.** ✧ For trying to be in control and not submitting to you, ✧ **Father, forgive us.** ✧ For living to please people and not worshipping you, ✧ **Father, forgive us.** ✧ For relying on self, family, and nation instead of trusting in you, ✧ **Father, forgive us.** ✧ For not faithfully living in our Baptism, ✧ **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.**

Song ✠ *“When We Walk With the Lord”*

♪ *When we walk with the Lord in the truth of his Word, he will always be guiding the Way! While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.* ♪

REFRAIN: ♪ *Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be walking with Jesus, but to trust and obey.* ♪

♪ *Ev’ry burden we bear, ev’ry sorrow we share, is a gift that now shows us the Way. Ev’ry trauma and loss, ev’ry death on our cross, is now bless’d if we trust and obey.* ♪

♪ *But we never can prove the true depths of his love until all things at his feet we lay. So we come to his throne and give up what we own, ‘cause in him we will trust and obey.* ♪ **(REFRAIN)**

♪ *Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, and we’ll walk by his side on the Way. What he says we will do, where he sends we will go, never fear, only trust and obey.* ♪ **(REFRAIN)**

Ashes on the Forehead — “From dust you came, to dust you will return.”

Musical Offering

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”*

♪ *O Christ, You walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go. You faced with us temptation’s pow’r And fought our ancient foe.* ♪

♪ *No bread of earth alone Can fill our hung’ring hearts. Lord, help us seek Your living Word, The food Your grace imparts.* ♪

♪ *No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above. Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love.* ♪

♪ *When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine, Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; Our wills with Yours align.* ♪

♪ *O Christ, You walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go. Stay with us through temptation’s hour To fight our ancient foe.* ♪

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- “40 Days of Walking the Way” - Join us on Wednesdays in Lent at 6:30 pm as we immerse ourselves in Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love.
- Table Talk - Join us on Mondays at 6:00 pm for our table talk discussions on “The Patient Ferment of the Early Church.” Kevin and Luke are leading us in a discussion about the character and practices of the early church and how we can shape our own direction and life as a church in similar ways.