

† 40 Days of Walking the Way †
Week 3



Repentance — The Way of Hope:
Confronting Your Past

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠
“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | March 3, 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 community.** ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ✠ **we confront our pasts with our minds, bodies, and whole lives.**

(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)

Repentance — The Way of Hope

In the sacrament of Repentance, the Creator works

✠ **to change my heart and mind away from my addiction to the Way of Civilization and toward the Way of Jesus.**

Repentance is the change of

✠ **who I am at my core and in my soul.**

Through Repentance, the Holy Spirit changes

✠ **how I see and process my past and future, and therefore my life itself.**

The Creator’s work of Repentance

✠ **creates Hope within me.**

♪ Jesus, grant me hope and healing in your loving arms to find, ev'ry hour that I am feeling past pains in body and mind. Give me the strength to endure. Help me flee all thoughts impure and to master each temptation, calm in prayer and meditation. ♪ Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me, by your wounds, Lord, is made whole; When I'm faint, your cross revives me, granting new life to my soul. Yes, your comfort renders sweet ev'ry bitter cup I meet; all pain fades in your compassion as I wait on your salvation. ♪ (tune: LSB 421)

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. ♪*

† Confronting Your Past †

“Confronting Your Past” Litany

The first practice of Hope

✘ **is confronting my past.**

By looking at your past with the Creator’s eyes

✘ **I will be freed from the control of the spiritual forces, voices, and ghosts of my past.**

♪ *As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered far from your love—unfed, unclean, unclothed—dare we recall your wealth so rashly squandered, dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed? ♪ A feast of love for us you are preparing; we who were lost, you give an honored place! “Come, eat! Come, drink! And be no more despairing—here taste again the treasures of my grace!” ♪ (tune: LSB 612)*

Reading ✘ 1 John 1:5—2:11

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

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

“Letting Go of Blame-Shifting & Following with Self-Examination” Litany

Do not scapegoat yourself or others

✘ **for your struggles and addictions.**

Do not focus on

✘ **the problems of others.**

Do not try to fix others

✘ **instead of yourself.**

Explore your feelings,

✘ **thoughts, words, and actions.**

With the help of others, dig deep within

✘ **and grow in honest self-awareness of your past and present.**

Song ✕ *LSB 610 "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"*

- ♪ *Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin; from selfish passions set me free, and make me pure within. ♪*
- ♪ *Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed; let me your loving servant be, and live your promised rest. ♪*
- ♪ *Lord Jesus, think on me, amid struggle and strife; in all my pain and misery please be my Health and Life. ♪*
- ♪ *Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray; through darkness and perplexity, point out your chosen way. ♪*
- ♪ *Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when the flood is past, I may a new creation be, and walk with you steadfast. ♪*

Reading ✕ Psalm 32

The reading comes from Psalm 32. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**

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

"Letting Go of Secrecy & Following with Vulnerability" Litany

Do not have secret or concealed

✕ **areas or habits in your life.**

Do not hide the truth about yourself

✕ **behind the false self of your ego.**

Do not deceive

✕ **or mislead yourself or others.**

Be vulnerable

✕ **and honest with others.**

Openly share and expose

✕ **your struggles and secrets with other followers of Jesus.**

Identify and name

✕ **your disobedience and addictions.**

Song ✕ *LSB 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"*

- ♪ *Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus gave his life for me; Died that I might self-deny, Lived that I might never die, As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine. ♪*
- ♪ *Oh, the height of Jesus' love! Higher than the heav'ns above, Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting through eternity. Love that found me--wondrous thought!--Found me when I sought Him not. ♪*
- ♪ *Only Jesus can impart love to heal the wounded heart; Peace that flows from his teachings, Joy that new life with him brings; Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Jesus trod. ♪*
- ♪ *O my Savior, help afford By your Spirit and your Word! When my wayward heart does stray, Keep me in the narrow way; Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die. ♪*

Reading ✕ Matthew 18:21-35

The reading comes from Matthew 18. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**

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

“Letting Go of Fixation & Following with Forgiveness” Litany

Do not fixate, obsess, or dwell

✠ **on the past in your mind and heart.**

Do not hold grudges

✠ **or desire revenge.**

Do not be merciless

✠ **to yourself or others.**

Do not be bitter

✠ **about the past.**

Release your grip

✠ **on the past.**

Make internal peace, and external peace where possible,

✠ **with those you have hurt and those who have hurt you.**

Focus on the Creator’s presence

✠ **and work in your past.**

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 confronting our past, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For blaming others and not examining ourselves, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For living in secrecy and not being vulnerable with others, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For fixating on the past and not letting go with forgiveness, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For not faithfully living in Repentance, ✠ **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.**

LSB 595 “Oh Blessed Spring”

♪ *Oh blessed spring, where Word and sign embrace us into Christ the vine: here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch of this life giving tree.* ♪

♪ *Through summer heat of youthful years, uncertain faith, rebellious tears, sustained by Christ’s infusing rain, the boughs will shout for joy again.* ♪

♪ *When autumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their heavy harvest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will move with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.* ♪

♪ As winter comes, as winter must, we breathe our last, return to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take wing and trust the promise of the spring. ♪
♪ Christ, holy vine, Christ, living tree, be praised for this blest mystery: that Word and water thus revive and join us to your tree of life. ♪

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.