

† 40 Days of Walking the Way †



Repentance — The Way of Hope:
Waiting on the Creator's Future

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠
“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | March 10, 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 wait on you 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. ♪*

† Waiting on the Creator’s Future †

“Waiting on the Creator’s Future” Litany

The second practice of Hope

✠ **is waiting on the Creator’s future.**

The Creator has promised that

✠ **he will judge, set right, and fix all creation, including me.**

He has promised to

✠ **raise the dead and bring renewal to all creation.**

♪ *If you but trust in God to guide you and hope in him through all your ways, he’ll give you strength, whate’er betide you, and bear you through the evil days. Who trusts in God’s unchanging love builds on the rock that cannot move. ♪ Be patient and await his goodness in cheerful hope, with heart content to take whate’er your Father’s pleasure and his discerning love has sent, nor doubt our inmost wants are known to him who chose us for his own. ♪ (tune: LSB 750)*

Reading ✠ Luke 12:1-34

The reading comes from Luke 12. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**

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

“Letting Go of Anxious Fear & Following with Patient Prayer” Litany

Do not fear

✠ **suffering, death, rejection, slavery, Civilization’s authorities, the unknown, or anything other than the Creator.**

Do not worry, stress, or be anxious

✠ **about basic needs, safety, or tomorrow for yourself or your loved ones.**

Readily and patiently wait on your Father to

✠ **rule, judge, provide, and protect.**

Do this in all situations,

✠ **regardless of the consequences.**

Be a child of your heavenly Father

✠ by always seeking his desires and asking him for every need.

Song ✠ *LSB 736 “Consider How the Birds Above”*

♪ *Consider how the birds above feed day by day with carefree ease. Does God not keep them in his love? Are we not worth much more than these?*

♪ *The lilies grow, they do not toil; how fair is their fragility. If God clothes these which quickly spoil, will he not clothe both you and me? ♪*

♪ *Set not your heart on food or drink, nor be weighed down by worldly care; about such things the godless think, yet never thank the Lord in prayer. ♪*

♪ *Be on your guard against all greed, for life is more than what we own. Our Father knows our ev'ry need before our needs to us are known. ♪*

♪ *Be not afraid to suffer loss of all the things for which you pray, for he who faced for you the cross will give you strength to live each day. ♪*

♪ *Seek first God's reign, his boundless grace, his holy name in all you do: Christ first and last in ev'ry place; all else will then be given you. ♪*

Reading ✠ Philippians 4:4-13

The reading comes from Philippians 4. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**

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

“Letting Go of Desire & Following with Contented Peace” Litany

Do not covet or crave

✠ **what you do not have or what others have.**

Do not desire

✠ **more than you need or what is not given to you.**

Do not stimulate

✠ **and feed your appetites.**

Be content, satisfied, and at peace in all situations

✠ **whether in abundance and comfort or in poverty and pain.**

Trust that your Father knows exactly what you need

✠ **and will provide that in the right time.**

Song ✠ *LSB 753 “All for Christ I Have Forsaken”*

♪ *All for Christ I have forsaken and have taken up my cross; worldly joy, its fame and fortune, now I count as worthless dross. ♪*

♪ *Who is sweeter than Christ Jesus? No good thing in him I lack! Hand to plow, at peace I follow where he leads me, why look back? ♪*

♪ *Gone the past, unknown the future, grace supplies my daily breath; strong in Christ through death's dark valley, firm and faithful unto death. ♪*

♪ *When God takes me home to heaven, should this be the day I die, God will keep my spouse and children as the apple of his eye. ♪*

♪ *Though the road ahead be thorny, though dark clouds all light obscure, though my cross-shaped path grows steeper, with the Lord, I am secure. ♪*

Reading ✠ Romans 8:18-39

The reading comes from Romans 8. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**

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

“Letting Go of Depression & Following with Joyful Suffering” Litany

Do not despair

✠ **and give in to persistent sorrow.**

Do not focus on yourself

✠ **and your own sufferings and failed plans.**

Do not grieve without hope like those in Civilization.

Take up your cross

✠ **and daily embrace loss and death.**

Rejoice in weakness

✠ **and suffering.**

Be joyful knowing that the Creator is working all things,

✠ **even evil and death, for the good of his children.**

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 waiting on your future, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For living in anxious fear and not being patient in prayer, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For living giving in to our desires and not living in contented peace, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For giving in to depression and not living in joyful suffering, ✠ **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.**

Song ✠ *LSB 752 “Be Still, My Soul”*

♫ Be still my soul the Lord is on your side. Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain. Leave to your God to order and provide. In ev’ry change he faithful will remain. Be still my soul your loving heav’nly Friend, through thorny ways leads to a joyful end. ♪

♫ Be still my soul your God does undertake, to guide the future as he has the past. Your hope your confidence let nothing shake, all now mysterious will be clear at last. Be still my soul the waves and winds still know, his voice who rules them as he dwells below. ♪

♫ Be still my soul when dearest friends depart, and all is darkened in the veil of tears. Then you will better know his love his heart, who comes to soothe

your sorrow and your fears. Be still my soul your Jesus can repay, from his own fullness all he takes away. ♪

♪ Be still my soul the hour has now come here, for we are now forever with the Lord. We are no longer ruled by grief and fear, in the midst of sorrow we are restored. Be still my soul your time alone is past, the Lord has come to dwell with us at last. ♪

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.