

† 40 Days of Walking the Way †

Week 5



Communion — The Way of Love:
Sharing with the Church

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

(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)

Communion — The Way of Love

In the sacrament of Communion, the Creator

✠ **lovingly brings me into unity and union with himself.**

His self-giving love empowers you to enter into loving union

✠ **with the Church and all creation, including my own body.**

At the center of the sacrament of Communion is the mystery

✠ **of sharing bread and wine to remember and re-embodiment Jesus’s story.**

As we share bread and wine in Jesus’s memory,

✠ **he gives himself to me and makes me part of the Body of Christ.**

His body is the bread of life

✠ **that sustains me and turns me into a person of love.**

His self-sacrificial blood

✠ **heals my relationship with the Creator.**

He empowers us

✠ **to sacrifice myself instead of others.**

Through this mystery we are filled with the Lord himself

✠ **and learn to see him in, with, and under all his creation.**

The Creator’s work of Communion

✠ **is given and shared through Love.**

♪ We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land. And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love ♪ We will work with each other, we will work side by side, We will work with each other, we will work side by side, And we’ll share with each other knowing God will provide. And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes,

they'll know we are Christians by our love. ♪ (tune: GC2 728)

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. ♪*

† Sharing with the Church †

"Sharing with the Church" Litany

The first practice of Love

✘ **is sharing with the Church.**

This sharing creates

✘ **an alternative political and economic reality to Civilization.**

Within the Body of Christ there are

✘ **no debts, no slaves, and no private property.**

All things are held in common,

✘ **including resources, time, and life.**

♪ *Live the word that Christ has spoken, help the weak, the hungry feed; see the pow'rs of darkness broken, sinners pardoned, captives freed: Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, help us meet our brother's need. ♪ Christ, in ev'ry congregation build your temple, stone by stone, with your word as firm foundation for a love matured and grown: Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, make in us your Gospel known. ♪ (tune: LSB 847)*

Reading ✘ Matthew 25:31-46

The reading comes from Matthew 25. ✘ **We listen with open hearts.**

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

“Letting Go of Self-Interest & Following with Self-Sacrifice” Litany

Do not think only about yourself.

✠ **or put your interests above others.**

Do not isolate yourself or ignore

✠ **your responsibility for your brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Do not follow teachings

✠ **that feed your selfish desires.**

Offer your body as a living sacrifice

✠ **for all members of the Church.**

Embrace the Church

✠ **as your true and primary family.**

Share your time and life with the Church.

✠ **by listening to and waiting on every member.**

Pay attention to the unique situation

✠ **and needs of every member.**

Submit to the Church’s leaders

✠ **who live and proclaim the truth.**

Song ✠ *GC2 656 “Whatsoever You Do”*

REFRAIN: ♪ Whatsoever you do to the least of his people, you have done for Jesus. ♪

♪ When I was hungry, you gave me your food. When I was thirsty, you gave me a drink. Now enter into the home of my Father. ♪ (REFRAIN)

♪ When I was homeless, you opened your door. When I was naked, you gave me your coat. Now enter into the home of my Father. ♪ (REFRAIN)

♪ When I was hated, you visited me. When I was sickly, you cared for my needs. Now enter into the home of my Father. ♪ (REFRAIN)

♪ When I was weary, you helped me find rest. When I was anxious, you calmed all my fears. Now enter into the home of my Father. ♪ (REFRAIN)

♪ When I was abused, you stood by my side. When I was lonely, you gave me your love. Now enter into the home of my Father. ♪ (REFRAIN)

Reading ✠ Romans 12:1-17

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

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

“Letting Go of Competition & Following with Cooperation” Litany

Do not be envious

✠ **or jealous of others.**

Do not compare and measure yourself or others

✠ **by Civilization’s political or economic standards.**

Do not disrupt

✠ **or undermine the work of others.**

Do not compete

✘ **to get your needs fulfilled ahead of others.**

Find your unique place and role

✘ **within the Body of Christ and help others do so as well.**

Use your energy and talents

✘ **to help carry the burdens of others in both good and bad times.**

Starting one-on-one, lovingly hold each member

✘ **accountable to following Jesus's Way.**

Trust the Church

✘ **to take care of your true needs.**

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. 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. 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. 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. Love each other, love each other, teach us to wait on your will. ♪*

Reading ✘ Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35

The reading comes from Acts 2 & 4. ✘ **We listen with open hearts.**

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

"Letting Go of Ownership & Following with Generosity" Litany

Do not speak or act

✘ **like anything belongs to you.**

Do not take

✘ **more than your daily need.**

Do not keep

✘ **the best for yourself.**

Do not store up

✘ **money or possessions for the future.**

Do not hold back

✘ **from a brother or sister in need.**

Do not be entitled

✘ **and think you deserve special rights.**

Do not use the creation

✘ **to build unnatural and selfish environments.**

Give good things with no strings attached

✘ **and without expecting anything in return.**

Sell your possessions

✘ **and give to your brothers and sisters who are in need.**

Use money to build healthy relationships

✘ **of giving and receiving within the Church.**

In all things, live the reality that

✘ **it is more blessed to give than to receive.**

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 sharing with the Church, ✘ **Father, forgive us.** ✘ For putting our selfish interests first and not sacrificing ourselves for your Church, ✘ **Father, forgive us.** ✘ For competing with others and not cooperating, ✘ **Father, forgive us.** ✘ For acting like we own things and not living generously, ✘ **Father, forgive us.** ✘ For not faithfully living in Communion, ✘ **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 730 "What Is the World to Me"*

♪ What is the world to me, with all its many pleasures? When you and you alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure! You only Lord Jesus, my life's delight will be. You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me! ♪

♪ The world seeks to be praised, and honored by the mighty. But little do they know, that they are dead and empty. But what I only seek, above all things is he. My Jesus, he alone. What is the world to me! ♪

♪ The world seeks after wealth, to build up money and stuff. Yet never is content, for it is never enough. I have the only good, content with it I'll be. My Jesus is my wealth. What is the world to me! ♪

♪ What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure. My life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my pleasure. My joy, my crown, my all, my life eternally. Once more then I declare: What is the world to me! ♪

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. ♪*
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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.