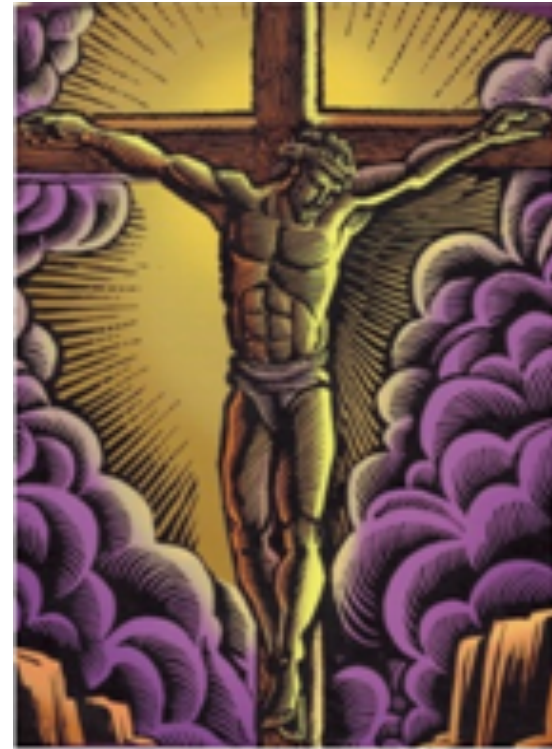


Victory in Christ Lutheran Church



Ash Wednesday
March 2, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church
508 Main Street
Newark, Texas 76071
817-489-5400

Pastor Philip Schielke

Pastor's Email: pastor@viclutheranchurch.org

Church Website: www.viclutheranchurch.org

Church Email: churchoffice@viclutheranchurch.org

WELCOME! We thank God for you and pray that He will richly bless our worship together.

Communion: We welcome all of our guests worshiping with us today and pray your faith is strengthened. God's Word declares to us that the bread and wine we receive in the Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ given for the forgiveness of sins and nourishing of faith (Matt. 26: 26-28; Mark 14: 22-24; Luke 22: 19-21; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26). When receiving His true body and blood, all communicants are to be united in their understanding and confession of Jesus Christ and all of His teaching (Jon. 17: 22; 1 Cor. 1: 10). An unworthy reception of this gift results in one who "eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11: 29). Therefore, if you are still learning Lutheran doctrine or are not part of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you forward for a blessing and encourage you to speak with the pastor *before* the service in order to learn more about our teaching on the Lord's Supper.

Imposition of Ashes

Hymn of Invocation: #419 – Savior, When in Dust to Thee

Corporate Confession and Absolution: pg. 290

**Service of the Word -Divine Service Setting Three: pg. 186
(omitting *The Gloria in Excelsis* and the *Alleluia* before the Gospel)**

Psalmody

Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12; antiphon v. 17 (English Standard Version)

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.

¹ **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my
trans- | gressions.**

² Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,
and cleanse me | from my sin!

³ **For I know my trans- | gressions,
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.**

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, | O God,
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.

¹¹ **Cast me not away from your | presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.**

¹² Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12-19 (English Standard Version)

Return to the LORD

¹² "Yet even now," declares the LORD,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments."
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,

a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

The LORD had Pity

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.”

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 (English Standard Version)

^{20b} We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹ Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

³ We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷ by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (English Standard Version)

Giving to the Needy

¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

² “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Fasting

¹⁶ “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Sermon Hymn: #607 – From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

Sermon: “Who Has Believed”

The Prayer of the Church: The Litany pg. 288

Service of the Sacrament: pg. 194

Communion Hymn: #563 – Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Closing Hymn: #418 – O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

Ash Wednesday Stewardship Focus

Matthew 6:19-21 – “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” What more is there to say about stewardship beyond this? These are the words of our Lord Jesus, and we would do well to heed them, for they flow from His heart of love.