



# First Lutheran Church

*We are believers seeking to invite all into the caring, sharing and growing ways of Christ.*

## Who Is the Greatest?

March 6, 2018  
4:15pm & 6:15pm

Prelude

Welcome

**Hymn**

***O Zion, Haste***

ELW 668

Prayer of the Day

Choir Anthem (6:15)

*Thou Hidden Love of God*

by J. Aaron McDermid

Readings

Psalm 51:1-3

pew bible p. 509

“The word of the Lord.” Response: ***Thanks be to God!***

**Gospel Acclamation**

***Jesus, Remember Me***

ELW 616

Gospel

Matthew 18:1-9

pew bible p. 897

Response after the announcement: ***Glory to you, O Lord!***

Response after the reading: ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

**Hymn**

***Where Charity and Love Prevail***

ELW 359

Sermon

Interlude

Offering

**Offertory**

***Take My Life, That I May Be*** (v.1, 6)

ELW 685

### **Invitation to Lent and Confession of Sin**

One: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the Promised Land, out of death into Life.

**All: *Amen***

One: On this Day of Ashes, we proclaim together:

**All: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

One: Friends in Christ, today we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to new life. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with our God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that renounces evil and anything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of God's Word and the Sacraments. The Lord promises to walk beside us as we look ahead to the great and terrible event of Jesus' death and resurrection.

One: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Most holy and merciful Father:

**All: *We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and***

*deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We lay our burdens of sin before you, O Lord:*

**Men:** *Our pride, hypocrisy, impatience, and self-indulgent ways,*

**Women:** *Our anger, our frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,*

**Men:** *Our negligence in prayer and worship,*

**Women:** *Our failure to share the faith that is in us.*

**Men:** *We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.*

**Women:** *We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.*

**All:** *We repent, Lord God, of the sin in our lives.*

**One:** Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**All:** *Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.*

Words of Institution

**Lord's Prayer** (sung)

*Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever! Amen.*

Imposition of Ashes/Communion Distribution

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

ELW 781

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

ELW 733

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

ELW 608

Blessing

**Sending Song**

*The Lord's My Shepherd*

ELW 778

Postlude

### **Communion and the Imposition of Ashes**

When we celebrate the Lord's Supper this evening, the bread and wine will be distributed by intinction, wherein you will be given a wafer and asked to dip it in the wine. Please let us know if you prefer grape juice or gluten-free wafers. The ushers will direct you how to proceed.

It doesn't matter who you are, where you've been, or where you're going. You are warmly invited to come to the Lord's Table and receive his gift of forgiveness and love.

On the way back to your seat, everyone is invited to also receive the sign of the cross in ashes on your forehead (those who do not receive communion are still welcome to receive the ashes). You will hear these words spoken: *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* The ashes and words remind us of our humanity, as well as the way that new life always grows out of a field that has been burned. With the cross on our brow, we proclaim the hope we have in the coming good news of Easter.

You may simply return to your seat if you choose not to receive the ashes.