

Service of Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 18, 2018

10:30 am



*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

Psalm 51:10



Ebenezer
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Ebenezer!

We hope you are blessed by your time in worship today. Please complete the "Welcome" insert and place it in the offering plate as it is passed.

Restrooms are located in the Education Building.

Devices for the hearing impaired are located on designated pews. For assistance, please see an usher.

A nursery for children three-years old and younger is available, beginning 9:15 am, for Sunday school and worship. The nursery is located across from the library in the Education Building. Our attendants are trained and willing to help. Parents are welcome to use the nursery for part or all of the worship service.

As you enter the worship space, please be sure to silence your cell phones.

+ GATHERING +

Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter. It starts on Ash Wednesday and ends at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. The 40 days represent the amount of time Jesus was tempted by the Devil in the desert, and Sundays are not counted as part of the 40 days. Lent is a time to prepare for Easter and to think about our relationship with God. During this time, Jesus didn't eat or drink anything. Because of this, many Christians give up something or 'fast' for Lent. In our worship at Ebenezer, we 'fast' from certain practices such as choir processions, the use of the word 'Alleluia' in liturgies, and adorning the altar with flowers or greenery. The removal of these practices allows for an opportunity to concentrate on the humility of Christ. During Lent, the altar paraments are changed to purple to represent the royalty of Christ.

Preservice Music "Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley"
arr. Dale Wood

We stand as able.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

We kneel as able or remain standing. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most Merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Behold, now is the acceptable time;

now is the day of salvation.

Almighty God have mercy on us,

forgive us all our sins,

and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

All stand and face the processional cross.

Gathering Hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
Hymn 807

Greeting

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy...

Hymn 152

Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Welcome and Announcements

We welcome one another to worship and then we sit.

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in Bible readings.

Children's Message

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34
(Pew Bible page 721)

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10
(Pew Bible page 1093)

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

John 12:20-33
(Pew Bible pages 982-983)

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor Amundson

We stand.

Hymn of the Day

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Hymn 803

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

After the assisting minister introduces the prayers, we stand or kneel as able, for the petitions.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

All stand.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

We sit.

An offering is collected to support the mission of the church.

What is Holy Communion?
Holy Communion is our participation in the meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. As Jesus' disciples now this meal is a participation in our Lord's life: he feeds us, forgives us, and unites us.

This meal, sometimes called "Eucharist" (meaning "thanksgiving"), connects us to our Lord and to all his people across time and space.

+ MEAL +

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven."
Reception of the Offering

Musical Offering "The Cross Has the Final Word" Cody Comes
Ebenezer Musicians

We stand.

Offertory Song "Create in Me a Clean Heart" Hymn 185

Offering Prayer

*After the gifts have been presented, the prayer is said:
Let us pray...Amen.*

Great Thanksgiving

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season;
We respond:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

How we Commune
*Welcome to the table of
the Risen Christ!*

*All baptized worshipers are
invited to partake of the
Eucharist, regardless of
denominational affiliation.
Come down the center aisle
and either kneel or stand at
the rail in front of the altar.
Take the bread and
dip it into
the cup of wine.*

*If you require gluten-free
wafers or grape juice, please
let the ministers know.
Return to your seat
by way of
the side aisles.*

*If you are unable to come
forward please come down
the side aisles on either side
after the "Invitation" and
communion will be brought
to you. If you need to
remain in your seat please
notify an usher.*

*Any who do not wish to
receive communion may
fold their arms across
their chest to receive a
blessing at the altar.*

We sit.

Jesus' Words About Communion

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Return to God with all your heart.

Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

We sit.

Communion

Distribution Music

O Lamb of God...



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”
“Grace That is Greater”

Hymn 659
Insert

When all have returned to their places, we stand or kneel.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray...Amen.

All stand.

+ SENDING +

We are blessed to go and serve God in the world.

All turn and face the processional cross.

Sending Song “Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow”
Hymn 327

Blessing

Dismissal

Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“When All Thy Mercies, O My God”
arr. Robert J. Powell



Serving in Worship Today

The Rev. Gary Dreier
The Rev. Melvin E. Amundson
Judy Woolly
Andreas Herzog
Linda Davis
Ron Banister, Debe Morrell
David E. Turner

*Presiding
Preaching
Assisting
Lector
Element Bearer
Communion Assistants
Director of Music and Worship*

“Reaching out to draw others to Christ.”

- We place Jesus first in all that we do ·
- We share Christ wherever we are ·
- We welcome a diversity of believers and skeptics to experience Christ with us ·
- We seek to deepen our faith and discipleship ·
- We embrace the gifts of each and all ·

Strategic Directions

- We will offer worship opportunities with Biblically based, doctrinally sound preaching and inspiring music, energizing ourselves to do God’s work.
- We will welcome our neighbors and invite them to participate in all church programs.
- We will respond to the needs of all God’s people, seeking justice and peace, locally and globally.
- We will commit our time and resources to support God’s work through the South Carolina Synod and the ecumenical community.
- We will provide dynamic Christian education, immersing ourselves in God’s word.
- We will foster a sense of congregational community and genuine concern for the well-being of our members.



Ebenezer Lutheran Church

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Website: <http://www.ebenezerlutheran.org>

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The Rev. Gary Dreier, Pastoral Associate

David E. Turner, Director of Music and Worship

Diane M. Oliver, Administrative Associate

Wendy Isgett, Accountant