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JESUS CHRIST  
IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

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# MT. OLIVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

7979 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE 68505

**Our mission statement: Mt Olive exists to proclaim God's Word in its truth and purity, so that each believer may GROW in faith and then GO with the good news of Jesus Christ to our community and world so that together we may GLORIFY God into eternity.**

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February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday Worship

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**“Jesus Christ Is Our Great High Priest”**

## INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

C: **We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

C: **We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts towards others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

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

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

*Stand*

## **ABSOLUTION**

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, we implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated*

## REFLECTIVE HYMN: CW 103 “Glory Be To Jesus”

### SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let Us Pray:

Almighty and merciful God, You never despise what You have made and always forgive those who turn to You. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain Your full and gracious pardon; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen. (spoken)**

### THE WORD

#### FIRST LESSON

**II Samuel 12:1-13**

*David repents of his sin*

1The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, 3 but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. 4 “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.” 5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! 6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.” 7 Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. 9 Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’ 11 “This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’” 13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.

### PSALM OF THE DAY

**Psalm 103:6-16**

Speak the psalm responsively

M: The Lord works righteousness

**C: and justice for all the oppressed.**

M: He made known his ways to Moses,

**C: his deeds to the people of Israel:**

M: The LORD is compassionate and gracious,

**C: slow to anger, abounding in love.**

M: He will not always accuse,

**C: nor will he harbor his anger forever;**

M: He does not treat us as our sins deserve

**C: or repay us according to our iniquities.**

M: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

**C: so great is his love for those who fear him;**

M: As far as the east is from the west,

**C: so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

M: As a father has compassion on his children,

**C: so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;**

M: for he knows how we are formed,

**C: he remembers that we are dust.**

M: As for man, his days are like grass,

**C: he flourishes like a flower in the field;**

M: the wind blows over it and it is gone,

**C: and its place remembers it no more.**

## SECOND LESSON

Acts 5:1-11

*Ananias and Sapphira*

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. 2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. 3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God." 5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. 6 Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. 7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price." 9 Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." 10 At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

## HOLY GOSPEL

M: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter 18.

C: **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

## Luke 18:9-14

*The parable of the Pharisee and tax collector*

9To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: 10"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

M: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** 104 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

**THE SERMON:** Hebrews 5:7-9

“Jesus Christ Is Our Perfect High Priest”

Our Thank Offerings Are Gathered.

**LENTEN PRAYER**

M: The time has come, dear Savior, to go to Jerusalem. Be with us and bless us on this journey. Let it be with contrite hearts that we consider how our countless sins caused your suffering. Let it be with trembling hearts that we turn from our sins and with grateful hearts that we ponder the love that led you to suffer so much for us. Let it be with believing hearts that we hear the Lenten Gospel of forgiveness and with renewed hearts that we live for you here until we live with you forever in heaven. We pray this for your mercy’s sake.

**C: Amen**

**THE LORD’S SUPPER**

About The Lord’s Supper: We of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) practice close communion. We do this because we take seriously all that God’s Word says about receiving the Lord’s Supper. Those who receive it should examine themselves before receiving it. Those who receive it together should be of the same confession. Etc. (cf. I Cor 11:28; I Cor 10:17) Visitors and guests-if you haven’t received Lord’s Supper at our altar, we politely ask that you would speak to the pastor before receiving it with us. We don’t want to be presumptuous and assume your fellowship ties with us. We don’t want you to receive it to your spiritual harm. We would be more than happy to explain what God’s Word says about the Lord’s Supper and why we do what we do.

**M:** In this Lenten season, we hear our Lord’s call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil-all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at baptism; God’s forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the Absolution we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord. We who receive God’s love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to one another as Jesus became our Servant.

It is, however, in Holy Communion that the members of Christ’s body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord’s last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord’s gift of his body and blood and participate in that new covenant that makes us one in him. The Lord’s Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and one another.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION: Spoken by the Pastor

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Responsive Verse: CW 376 vs. 1 “Jesus Your Blood and Righteousness”

Jesus your blood and righteousness

My beauty are, my glorious dress;

Mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed,

With joy shall I lift up my head.

DISTRIBUTION OF CHRIST’S BODY AND BLOOD- IN, WITH & UNDER THE BREAD & WINE.

Distribution Hymn: 126 “Lord Jesus, You Are Going Forth”

**CLOSING LENTEN PRAYER**

M: Holy and righteous God, as we begin the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name’s sake.**

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus’ sake.**

M: In silent meditation let us reflect on our sinfulness, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God’s continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

Time for silent meditation follows.

M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

C: **We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake in Whose name we join in praying...**

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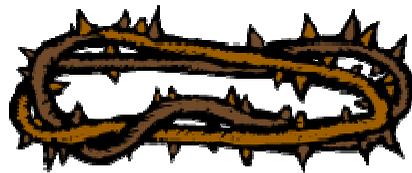
The Lord's Prayer

Blessing:

M: May the blessing of the eternal God be upon us; his light to guide us, his presence to shelter us, his peace to unite us.

C: **Amen**

Closing Hymn: 377 vs. 6 "Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice"



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# JESUS CHRIST

## IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

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**Ash Wednesday/Midweek 1 February 14<sup>th</sup>**

Hebrews 5:7-9 "Jesus Is Our Perfect High Priest" Kemnitz

Psalm 119c Hymns: 103;104;126;377

**Midweek 2 February 21<sup>st</sup>**

Hebrews 4:14-16 "Jesus Is Our Compassionate High Priest" Schultz

Psalm 34 Hymns: 109;116;121;385

**Midweek 3 February 28<sup>th</sup>**

Hebrews 10:5-12 "Jesus Is Our Self-Sacrificing High Priest" Haefner

Psalm 111 Hymns: 100;101;128;714

**Midweek 4 March 7<sup>th</sup>**

Heb. 13:10-16 "Jesus Our Great High Priest Serves at a Great Altar" Berger

Psalm 69 Hymns: 106;107;125;486

**Midweek 5 March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Hebrews 10:19-25 "Jesus Our Great High Priest Makes Us Priests" Hillmann Psalm 84 Hymns:

112;118;127;518

**Midweek 6 March 21<sup>st</sup>**

Hebrews 1:1-3 "Jesus Is Our Great High Priest" Kahrs

Psalm 51b Hymns: 98;111;359;376