ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ash Wednesday

17 February A**⊁**D 2021

Divine Service, Setting I

₩ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ★

Today we observe Ash Wednesday. This day marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a 40-day period of penitential devotion, during which we prepare our hearts to remember with thankfulness our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection. On Ash Wednesday, we begin this season by meditating upon the depth of our sin and the death we deserve, that we might better appreciate the salvation of Christ, who took it all upon Himself.

If you are a <u>VISITOR</u> here, offer you our warmest welcome! We pray that your experience among us is blessed, and that you depart filled with God's peace and life.

Also, toward the end of our service today we will be celebrating Holy Communion, in which we will eat and drink Jesus' body and blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Therefore, we ask that you would please see the statement titled "On the Sacrament of Holy Communion," printed below, which describes our beliefs and practices regarding this sacred gift.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: We believe that receiving Holy Communion together is a sacred expression of Christian unity, which includes unity in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:5). We also believe that if we receive this sacrament in unbelief, we risk God's judgment (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

Therefore, communion at this altar is reserved for those who believe and confess with us the teachings of our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Those who have not been formally instructed in our teachings should wait to commune until completing a course of instruction with us.

If you are a <u>VISITOR</u> and would like to commune with us today, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you will not be communing, you are welcome to kneel at the altar with your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing, or you may simply remain in your pew.

Due to the solemn character of the day, pre-service music and a hymn of invocation are omitted. The pastor and assistant enter in silence.

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Ash Wednesday Address

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection.

- P O Lord,
- C have mercy.
- P O Christ,
- C have mercy.
- P O Lord,
- **C** have mercy.
- **P** O Christ,
- C hear us.
- **P** God the Father in heaven,
- C have mercy.
- P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
- C have mercy.
- **P** God the Holy Spirit,
- C have mercy.
- **P** Be gracious to us.
- C Spare us, good Lord.
- **P** Be gracious to us.
- C Help us, good Lord.

- P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
- C Help us, good Lord.
- P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
- C Help us, good Lord.
- P We poor sinners implore You
- C to hear us, O Lord.
- P To prosper the teaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:
- **C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- P To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayer; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:
- **C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- **P** To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:
- **C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
- **C** we implore You to hear us.
- P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C have mercy.
- P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C have mercy.
- P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- **C** grant us Your peace.
- **P** O Christ,
- C hear us.
- P O Lord,
- C have mercy.
- P O Christ,
- **C** have mercy.
- P O Lord,
- C have mercy. Amen.

- P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Sit

Imposition of Ashes

After the pastor and assistant receive the ashes, the congregation is invited to come forward individually, receiving ashes on their forehead in the sign of the cross. The pastor applies the ashes saying, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19).

Music during Imposition of Ashes:

"Savior, When in Dust to Thee"

Joanne Wisti, violin

After receiving ashes, each person returns to his place in silence. After a period of silence, the pastor will return to the chancel. **The Service then continues with Confession and Absolution.**

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand

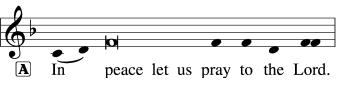
Service of the Word

Introit (spoken responsively)

Psalm 57:1–3a, c; antiphon: Liturgical Text

- You have mercy on all, O Lord, and abhor nothing you have made.
- You look past the sins of men that they may repent. You spare them all because you are our Lord, our God.
- P Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge;
- in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.
- I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.
- He will send from heaven and save me.
 God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!
- All: Glory be 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.
- You have mercy on all, O Lord, and abhor nothing you have made.
- You look past the sins of men that they may repent. You spare them all because you are our Lord, our God.

Kyrie LSB 152





C Lord, have mer - cy.

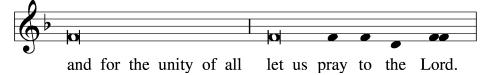


A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

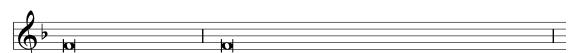




A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



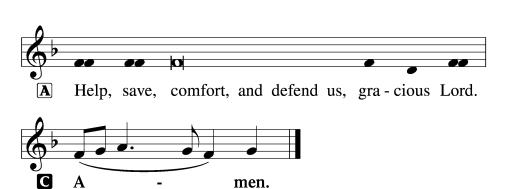




A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise







NOTE: During Lent, the Hymn of Praise is omitted.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jonah 3:1-10

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city,

going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

⁶The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual (Spoken responsively)

Psalm 57:1a, 3a

- P Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge.
- He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me.

Epistle 2 *Peter 1:2–11*

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Tract (spoken responsively)

Psalm 103:10; 79:8a, 9a

From Septuagesima to Holy Saturday the Tract replaces the Alleluia and Verse.

- P He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us.
- P Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

Holy Gospel *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.



¹[Jesus said:] "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.

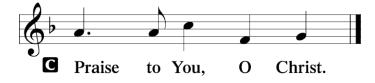
²"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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. . . .

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. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that 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.

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.







5 Oh, how blest it is to know:

Were as scarlet my transgression, It shall be as white as snow
By Thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted. Christ hath purchased my release

Tune and text: Public domain

And my ev'ry sin remitted. Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed (spoken together)

(The Apostles' Creed is used during Lent.)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life

→ everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, as we enter this Lenten season, we pray that You would grant to us penitent hearts that are turned toward You. We know that we have often wandered from Your ways and transgressed Your Law. We know that we deserve nothing from You but death and punishment. Yet we also know that, by Your grace, Your Son took all that we deserve into His own body on the cross. Throughout this holy season, fix our eyes continually on Him, for He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C hear our prayer.
- P Holy Lord, grant faithful pastors to Your Church, who preach the message of the cross in every season. Bless all who hear such preaching, that they may be strengthened in their faith and purified in their consciences, knowing that they have forgiveness of all their sins, eternal life and everlasting salvation through faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

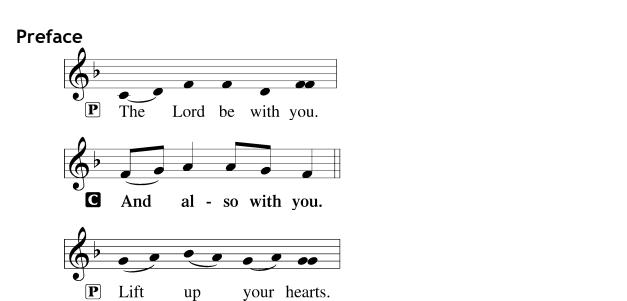
- Merciful Lord, forgive us for so often laying up for ourselves treasures on earth. You know how far our hearts have wandered. Grant us repentance, O Lord. Inspire us to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, and give us generous hearts, that we might support Your ministry and mission among us and throughout the world, and that we might give aid as we're able to the poor, hungry, homeless, unemployed and any others who need our help. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Comfort Your people, dear Lord, in their many and various afflictions. Relieve the sick, the suffering, the addicted, the troubled and the dying. Give to them healing, peace and recovery as You so will. Keep us mindful that by Christ's wounds we are healed, both in this life and, ultimately, in the resurrection on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- There is no greater worship than to receive the very gifts that You give to us for our salvation and eternal life, merciful Father. As we begin the Lenten fast this day, bless all who feast upon the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in His Supper. Through this Sacrament, strengthen our love for You and for one another, that we may go forth to live lives of faith and service in Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- We pray all these things in the name of our crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

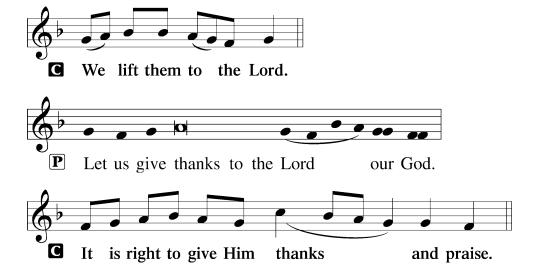
NOTE REGARDING THE OFFERING – Offering plates are located at the sanctuary exit doors where you may leave your weekly offering as you depart today.

LSB 160

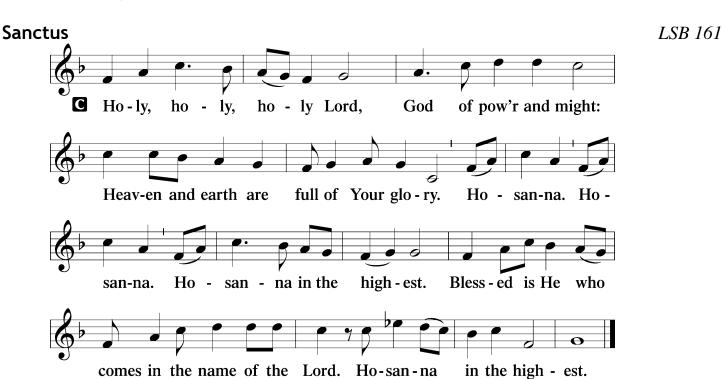


Service of the Sacrament





P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the allavailing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

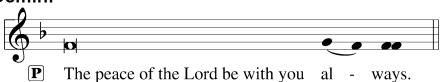
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."









Sit

Distribution

sin

Visitors – Please see note on the inside front cover of this service folder regarding our practice of Holy Communion.

grant

Directions for Holy Communion:

of the world;

- Ushers will release you in small groups to approach the altar
- Please wear a mask as you approach the altar and as you depart (masks may be removed at the communion rail)

peace.

us

- Please space yourselves out at the communion rail (households may remain together)
- Please temporarily receive the host (wafer) in your hands rather than your mouth
- Use of the common cup will be temporarily suspended
- When you take an individual cup, please be careful not to touch any adjacent cups



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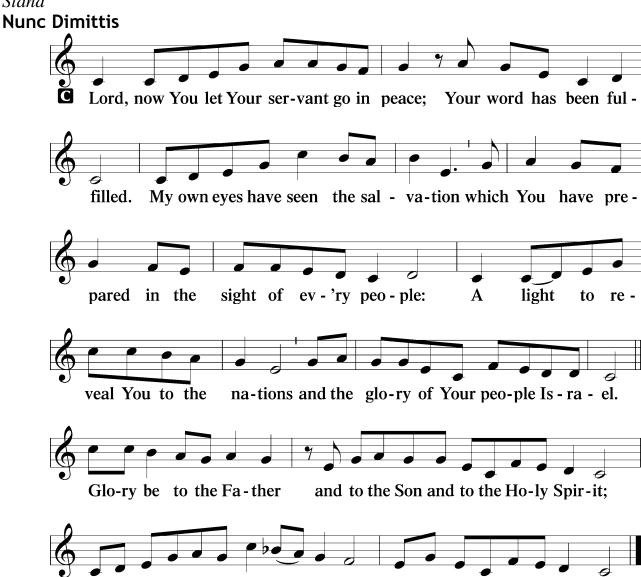
Distribution Hymn: 616 Baptismal Waters Cover Me



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LSB 165



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now,

Benediction LSB 166



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



Closing Hymn: 418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS EVENING

Presiding Minister Rev. Aaron Vergin

Acolyte TBD

Elder on Duty
Offering Counters
Organist
Usher
Darryl Swainson
Joanne Wisti
Rob Wheeler
Tom LoCascio

Video Technician TBD

Violinist Joanne Wisti