

ASH WEDNESDAY
A Service of Word & Sacrament
February 22, 2023



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
85 E. Brandt Boulevard
Landisville, PA

Connecting with God; Connecting with others; Connecting others with God

A LITURGY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

PRELUDE (7 p.m.)

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand if you are able.

SONG (7 p.m.)

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

1. In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: **we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: **Amen.**

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

† **THE WORD** †

FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Return to the LORD, your God.

A: ¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17

Please read responsively.

A: ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

C: ²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

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

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

Now is the day of salvation.

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

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

A: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (7 p.m.) *Be Thou My Vision*

ELW 793

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
Thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The practice of faith.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by

others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever 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 whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

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

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

HYMN (7 p.m.)

Just As I Am

ELW 592

1. Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bid'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.



3. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

4. Just as I am; thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

INVITATION TO LENT

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. 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 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 contends against evil and resists whatever 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 word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who wish to receive ashes are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary. The Pastor will apply ashes to your forehead or to the back of your hand if you prefer.

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
C: **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. O Lord, our God, you gather your church and call us to return to you. Accompany us throughout our Lenten pilgrimage. Create in us clean hearts and renew all the baptized to declare your praise. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Bring rains to parched places and heal lands affected by a changing climate, that all inhabitants of the earth experience your abundance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew the nations, O God. Give voice to those on the margins and resolve to world leaders who seek to protect those most vulnerable. Loosen the bonds of injustice and bring an end to all violence, oppression, and persecution. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew your people, O God. Respond to those who cry out to you in secret or in seclusion. Equip us with compassion to care for those who experience homelessness, food insecurity, economic hardship, and illness. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew this congregation, O God. Inspire our faith formation ministries and those who teach and lead. Invigorate us with lifelong curiosity and wonder as we grow as your disciples. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O Lord, our God, we give thanks for all your faithful ones of every time and place. Renew us by the example of their lives of prayer and service, and at the last, bring us with them into your everlasting presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Additional prayers may be lifted up by the congregation and/or pastor.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

† **THE MEAL** †

SETTING OF THE TABLE

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Preface

P: It is indeed right and our duty and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn with these words:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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 for all to drink, saying: *This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.*

P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: We pray together.

C: **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

PARTAKING IN THE BREAD AND CUP OF SALVATION

All baptized Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. You may commune in your pew with one of the individually packaged kits or you may commune by coming forward to receive the elements in continuous fashion. Those who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament may come forward and receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let one of the ushers know and the pastor will come to you.

FOR THOSE COMMUNING WITH THE KITS

Open the wafer packet.

P: The body of Christ given for you.

C: **Amen.**

Open the cup.

P: The blood of Christ shed for you.

C: **Amen.**

Please place communion cups & wrappers in the trash can as you exit the Sanctuary.

FOR THOSE COMMUNING BY COMING FORWARD

For those not able to have red wine, there is grape juice in the outer circle of every tray. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. When given the bread and cup, the communion ministers will say: "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond: "Amen."

Please use this time for quiet reflection or join in singing the communion hymn until all worshippers have communed and have returned to their seats.

COMMUNION HYMN (7 p.m.) *Softly and Tenderly*

ELW 608

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
 Calling for you and for me.
 See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
 Watching for you and for me.

Refrain

- "Come home, (Come home,
 Come home! (come home!)
 You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
 Calling, "O sinner, come home!"
2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
 Pleading for you and for me?
 Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
 Mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*
 3. Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
 Promised for you and for me!
 Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
 Pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

Please stand if you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

C: **Amen.**

Please stand if you are able.

BLESSING

P: God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: **Amen.**

MUSICAL BENEDICTION (7 p.m.) *Abide with Me*

ELW 629

1. Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.
4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!
5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks,
And earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve in Love.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE (7 p.m.)

MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministers	Members of the Congregation
Pastor	Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown
Music Director	John Landis
Parish Administrator	Anne Rankin
Worship Technology Assistant	David Albin
Lay Ministry Assistant	Diane Gerlach
Council President	Kim Paternoster
Council Vice President	Denise Haun
Sextons	Brian Bourassa (a.m.) Tom Miller (p.m.)

WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & CONTACT INFORMATION

Worship	Sundays @ 9:00 a.m.
Livestream & Recorded Link	http://bit.ly/Zion_Live
Bible Study Focus Class (Parlor)	Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. (Except 2/26)
Wired Word Class (Zone)	Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. (Except 2/26) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266
Bible Study	Tuesdays @ 9:00 a.m.
Thursday Lenten Study (3/2-3/30)	11 a.m. @ Holy Spirit (Columbia Ave., Lanc.)
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** The Macmillan Book of Earliest Christian Prayers, by F. Forrester Church and Terrence J. Mulry : New York: MacMillan Publishing Company 1988*