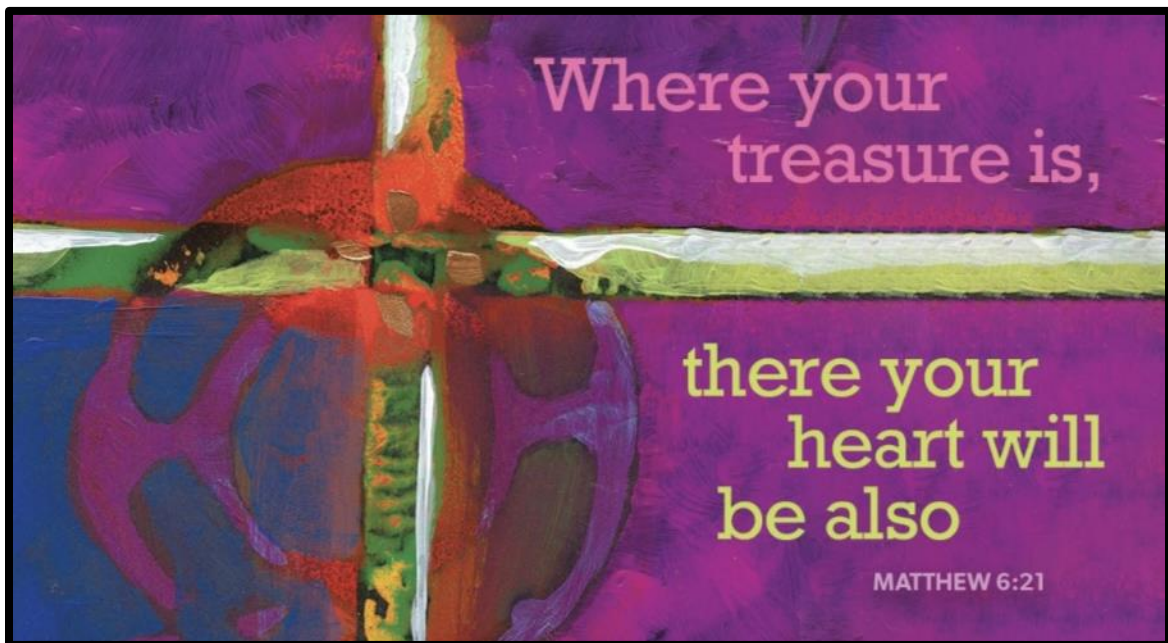


ASH WEDNESDAY
A Service of Word & Sacrament
February 14, 2024



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
85 E. Brandt Boulevard
Landisville, PA

The Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown, Pastor
John Landis, Music Director

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

GATHERING

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

Please stand if you are able.

SONG

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.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
4. Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935,
alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

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: Isaiah 58:1-12

The fast that God chooses.

A: ¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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.

⁴**Against 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.

⁶**Indeed, 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.

⁸**Let 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.

¹⁰**Create 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.

¹²**Restore 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.

¹⁴**Rescue 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.

¹⁶**For 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 *Change My Heart, Oh God*

BB 59

Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like You.

You are the potter. I am the clay.
Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.

Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like You.

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.

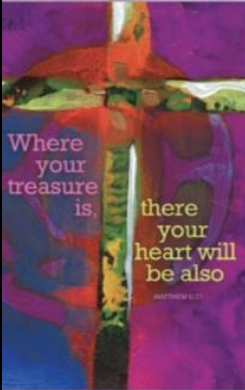
¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will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

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

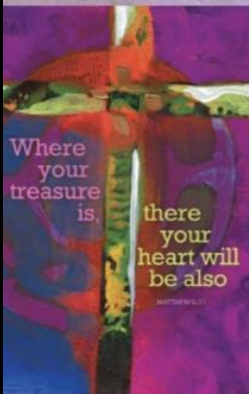
SERMON



***The “muddy éclair” story,
stewardship and worship in Lent,
according to Isaiah 58.***

The word “steward” comes from the old English word “sty-warden,” meaning “the one who cares for the pigs that belong to another.”

Isaiah confronts the people of Zion (Jerusalem), because they are not caring for what belongs to Another, that is, God.



The prophet Isaiah berates his contemporaries who have turned worship into an act of self-indulgence, empty and void of neighborly economics.

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.

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.**

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.

SONG

Ashes

Refrain

I got ashes on my forehead,
And I'm trying hard to learn.
This dust that I have started from
Is where I shall return,
And I will follow out of love,
'cause there is nothing I can earn.
I got ashes on my forehead, and I'm trying hard to learn.

1. Sometime in the dead of winter
This Wednesday rolls around.
We got purple on the altar;
We got snow upon the ground,
And this world starts spinning slower,
And we sing some quiet songs –
Facing our mortality, and all that we done wrong. *Refrain*



2. Forty days in the wilderness,
Forty days on the ark –
Driving home this evening,
I can still trace the mark.
Everybody sees the big sun setting,
Everybody rides the hearse.
Yeah, but you can't build up nothin'
'til you knock down somethin' first. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war. Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather us, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray for caregivers and people who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for those who served you in the church. Bring us with all the saints into everlasting joy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

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: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

PARTAKING IN THE BREAD AND CUP OF SALVATION

All baptized Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament by coming forward to receive the elements. 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 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 giving 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 hymns until all worshippers have communed and have returned to their seats.

COMMUNION HYMN

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. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

MUSICAL BENEDICTION

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. Share your bread.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

MID-WEEK HEALING SERVICES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 7:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 AT 1:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7 AT 1:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 AT 7:30 P.M.

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