

ASH WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST
Saint Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA
570-323-4619
www.stmarkswilliamsport.org
March 2, 2022
12:15 p.m. & 7 p.m.



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.

The assembly gathers in silence on this day.

***THE GREETING**

P Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

C **God's mercy endures forever.**

***PSALM 51** (*Read responsively*)

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

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

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

C **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.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**C Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

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

**C The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was
in the beginning, is now and ever shall be forever. Amen.**

***THE 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.

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

1 Blow 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—

2 a 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.

12 Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 rend 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.

14 Who 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?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
16 gather 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.

17 Between 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?'"

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Silence for Reflection

THE SECOND LESSON.....2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

20bWe 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.

6:1As 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.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Silence for Reflection

***THE GOSPEL.....Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the sixth 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.

Silence for Reflection

THE SERMON

***HYMN** “Savior, When in Dust to You” LBW, “Green”, 91

***INVITATION TO LENT**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Stand/Kneel

A brief silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Merciful God,

C you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.

**We confess that we have strayed from you
and turned aside from your way.**

**We fail in love, neglect justice,
and ignore your truth.**

Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.

Create in us clean hearts

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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.** *Congregation sits.*

People may come forward to receive ashes. After the ashes are received our liturgy continues:

P 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.**

***THE PRAYERS**

After each petition: Merciful God/Receive our prayer.

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Worshippers greet each other with the words, "Peace be with you", *R- "And also with you" without personal touch.*

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to children of God. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ 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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me."

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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**

Persons may come forward to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more "continuous" noting the following procedure:

- *Communicants, masked and observing social distancing, are asked to come forward as directed by ushers by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread from Pastor Vasey.*
- *Once receiving the bread, communicants will proceed to one of two stations (left or right) to receive wine from the pouring chalice.*

- *After receiving wine, communicants will place the empty cup in the designated tray and return to their pew by way of the side aisles.*

Please do not kneel at the rail. Kneeling at the rail will return at a time to be determined by pastor and Church Council.

P Return to God with all your heart.
Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***LAMB OF GOD** (*spoken*)

C **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION

***THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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

C **Amen.**

P Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:
May our fasting be hunger for justice,
our alms, a making of peace,
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;
through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

P May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you † peace.

C Amen.

***HYMN** "Out of the Depths I Cry to You" LBW, "Green", 295

***DISMISSAL**

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

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

12:15 p.m. *Out of the Depths* Nancy M. Raabe

7:00 p.m. *Aus tiefer Not schrei'ich zu dir* J.G. Walther

After the postlude please leave as quietly as possible.

Our liturgy is from "A Liturgy for Ash Wednesday", Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2006.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher/Celebrant	The Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor
Lector/Assisting Minister (<i>afternoon</i>)	Ralph Zeigler
Lector/Assisting Minister (<i>evening</i>)	C. Ray Huff
Pianist (<i>afternoon</i>)	Carol Waltz
Organist (<i>evening</i>)	Sam Robinson

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, 12:15 – 12:45 p.m., Wednesdays beginning March 9 through April 6 in Fellowship Hall. "Conversation and Catechism" will explore the scripture texts of Luther's Small Catechism. No meal will be served but feel free to bring a "bag lunch" if you so desire. Coffee, water and tea will be provided. All are welcome!

EASTER LILIES. White lily orders for Easter must be in to the church by March 13. Only white lilies are available at \$8.00 for a 6” bulb or \$16.00 for a 10” bulb. Asiatic lilies may be ordered for \$8.00 for a 6” bulb. They are colorful but no choice is given in a particular color. Hunger and dedication options may be made as well. Envelopes will be available – in the rear of the Narthex – through March 13. We will place the orders on that date. Thank you!