



Zion Lutheran Church – LCMS
20-141 County Road X – P.O. Box 37 – Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555
Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: zionrco@bright.net
Education Hour 8:45 AM - Divine Worship 10:00 AM
Communion First and Third Sundays
Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr, Pastor
Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: pastor.zionrco@bright.net

Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021

Service Notes:

*Face covering must be used at all times.
The congregation is invited to speak and
sing the parts in bold type through a face
covering.*

*Visitors are encouraged to note their attendance by
filling out the "Welcome" side (blue print) of the pew
cards and putting the card into the offering plate.*

Ashes were "a means to denote humiliation, sorrow, worthlessness, or purification. As a symbol of humility, ashes often were coupled with other items. When Abraham approached Yahweh, he referred to himself as dust and ashes (Gen. 18:27). Similarly, Daniel fasted and dressed himself in sackcloth and ashes (Dan. 9:3; cf. Matt. 11:21). ...Ashes commonly were used to express grief. Jeremiah encouraged the nation to mourn over the coming destruction by rolling in ashes (Jer. 6:26; cf. Job 2:8). Comparing something to ashes suggested the worthlessness of the object (Job 13:12) or its destruction (Ezek. 28:18; Job 30:19)." *Article on "Ashes" from Eerdmann's Bible Dictionary, copyright 2000*

There will be an opportunity for the "Imposition of Ashes" for all worshipers. This ancient Christian practice is a rite which reminds us of both the penalty of death upon our sinful human nature and also of God's promises of cleansing for His people. (Ashes are used in simple recipes for making soap.) Once the mix of ashes and olive oil have been put on the worshiper's forehead they can remain there for the duration of the worship service until one reaches home after worship.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Tower Bells

(Silent Entrance of the Pastor. Congregation stands when indicated by Pastor.)

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 that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.
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 preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation;*

*to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
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
prayers; 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.

The congregation sits.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(Those who wish to receive ashes come forward at the usher's directions. The pastor applies mixture of ashes and olive oil to the forehead of each person with the words:)

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

(After all desiring to receive ashes have returned to their places, the Pastor indicates for all to stand and say:)

All: 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.

P: 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 the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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 Lord,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Period of Silence

Collect for Ash Wednesday

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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,
 Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
 Fountain in life's desert dreary,
 Savior from the world above:
 Often have Your eyes, offended,
 Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
 Yet upon the cross extended,
 You have borne the pain of all.

2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,
 Breathing no repentant vow,
 Though we see You wounded, bleeding,
 See Your thorn-encircled brow?
 Yet Your sinless death has brought us
 Life eternal, peace, and rest;
 Only what Your grace hath taught us
 Calms the sinner's deep distress.

3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning
 With more fervent love for You;
 May our eyes be ever turning
 To behold Your cross anew
 Till in glory, parted never
 From the blessed Savior's side,
 Graven in our hearts forever,
 Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading Joel 2:12-20

12 "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 and rend your hearts and not your garments."

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. 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; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; 16 gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

17 Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

18 Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. 19 The Lord answered and said to his people "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations. 20 I will remove the northerner far from you, and drive him into a parched and desolate land, his vanguard into the eastern sea, and his rear guard into the western sea; the stench and foul smell of him will rise, for he has done great things."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading 2 Peter 1:2-11

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

3 His 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, 4 by 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. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For 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.

Gospel Reading Matthew 6:1-21

1 “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. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so 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. 6 But 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.

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread,
12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

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. 17 But when you fast, anoint your

head and wash your face, 18 that 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, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440

1 Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suffering, pain, and death
That I may not perish.

4 Grant that I Your passion view
With repentant grieving,
Let me not bring shame to You
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?

2 Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion:
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.

5 If my sins give me alarm
And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm;
Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won
By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son,
God must have compassion!

3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
Of Your crucifixion.

6 Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing Your praise forever.

Sermon

“Our Father in Heaven Sent His Son to Save Us” (See insert.)

Prayers of Zion Lutheran Church

O Lord, our heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that we would turn from our evil ways and live. Turn us again, O God of our salvation, and let Your anger cease from us. Spare us from every evil to body and soul. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look graciously on Your Church, and preserve the Gospel among us. Renew us in this penitential season to strive against the desires of the flesh, to grow in the joy of Your salvation, and to look in love and service toward our neighbors, especially those of the household of faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look graciously on the families of our congregation. Defend Your holy estate of marriage against every enemy that would divide. Strengthen parents for their duties, especially bringing up their children in the fear and instruction of the Lord, and preserve us all faithful to the end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look graciously on our nation and its leaders, all civil servants, and those who protect us and work for the common good. Give them Your divine wisdom. Drive away all disease and fear from us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Behold in mercy all who are sick, who suffer and who rejoice; and be with all expectant mothers, all whose labor is dangerous, the unemployed, those near death and those who mourn. Give comfort to us, who are dust and must return to dust, that a broken and contrite heart You will not despise. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank You, heavenly Father, that You have sent Your only begotten Son into our flesh to offer Himself as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Sing. See insert.)

Benediction

Closing Hymn

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

LSB 427

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.

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.

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.

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.

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