



Zion Lutheran Church – LCMS  
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Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: zionrco@bright.net  
Education Hour 8:45 AM - Divine Worship 10:00 AM  
Communion First and Third Sundays  
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## Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024

*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 can be 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 in a continuous line. The pastor (or assistant) 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.**

**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 1 Corinthians 12:1-3

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**Gospel Reading John 6:35-40 (*Stand*)

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Lord Jesus Christ.**

Hymn

*Glory Be to Jesus (vs 1-4)*

LSB 433

Sermon

Hymn

*Glory Be to Jesus (vs 5-6)*  
*(Offering brought forward on verse 6)*

LSB 433

Prayers of Zion Lutheran Church

O God of forgiveness, You know the transgressions of our hearts, bodies and minds. Give our hearts repentance over our sins, and cleanse and renew us by Your Holy Word and Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed Lord, You have called Your people to be reconciled to You in Christ. Grant us steadfast, pure and courageous hearts, that through all things we would remain witnesses of Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You instruct Your people in the way of righteousness. Grant us faithful hearts, that in the Lenten days to come, we would serve You and our fellow man in selfless love and find our reward only in You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, You blot out transgressions and wash away iniquity. Sustain the families of Your Church, that husbands, wives and children would be cleansed from their sins and live together in peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father and King over all, You alone establish all authority on earth. Bless those entrusted with this responsibility both here and abroad, that they would serve with integrity and honor and for the well-being of all – we remember before Your throne of grace and power, our military persons, chaplains, police, sheriffs, national guard, border patrol and all other law enforcement. Thank you for, and please protect, all who serve us in rescue, firefighting, emergency and medical services. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that all warfare and division in the world, conflict and strife in our country would give way to unity, peace and quietness. Grant Your mercy to those suffering and mourning now in the midst of war. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, behold in mercy all who are sick, who suffer and who rejoice. Be with all expectant mothers, all whose work is dangerous, the unemployed, those near death and those who mourn. Comfort us who are dust and must return to dust, with the promise that a broken and contrite heart You will not despise. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**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

## Benediction

## Closing Hymn

*Abide, O Dearest Jesus (vs 1-4)*

**LSB 919**

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Zion Lutheran Prayer adapted from LC-MS Three-Year Series Prayers - <https://www.lcms.org/worship/three-year-series-prayers>

## LENT and HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2024

### “I Believe that Jesus Christ is My Lord”

Date	Theme	Time
February 14 Ash Wednesday (Meal 5:45 pm)	<i>I believe that Jesus Christ</i>	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Wednesday, Feb. 21 (Meal 5:45 pm)	<i>is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,</i>	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Wednesday, Feb. 28 (Meal 5:45 pm)	<i>also true man, born of the Virgin Mary,</i>	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 6 (Meal 5:45 pm)	<i>is my Lord,</i>	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 13 (Meal 5:45 pm)	<i>who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me</i>	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 20 (Meal 5:45 pm)	<i>from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil,</i>	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday (with Lord's Supper)	<i>not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,</i>	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Friday, March 29 Good Friday	Jesus' 7 Last Words on the Cross	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Sunday, March 31 Resurrection Sunday	<i>in order that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.</i>	10:00 am

**Lent and Holy Week 2024**  
**Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio**

The theme Lent and Holy week this year at Zion will be “I Believe that Jesus is My Lord.” The Explanation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Creed will guide us through our meditations, from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. Good Friday’s theme will remain Jesus’ Seven Last Words from the Cross.

Martin Luther gave a summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostles’ Creed in the Large Catechism which can help us begin,

<sup>31</sup> Let this be the summary of this article, that the little word “Lord” simply means the same as Redeemer, that is, he who has brought us back from the devil to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and now keeps us safe there. The remaining parts of this article simply serve to clarify and express how and by what means this redemption was accomplished—that is, how much it cost Christ and what he paid and risked in order to win us and bring us under his dominion. That is to say, he became man, conceived and born without sin, of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin, that he might become Lord over sin; moreover, he suffered, died, and was buried that he might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owed, not with silver and gold but with his own precious blood. All this in order to become my Lord. For he did none of these things for himself, nor had he any need of them. Afterward he rose again from the dead, swallowed up<sup>1</sup> and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed dominion at the right hand of the Father. The devil and all powers, therefore, must be subject to him and lie beneath his feet until finally, at the last day, he will completely divide and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, etc.

<sup>32</sup> But the proper place to explain all these different points is not the brief children’s sermons, but rather the longer sermons throughout the year, especially at the times appointed<sup>2</sup> for dealing at length with such articles as the birth, passion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. [*Pastor Rockrohr: This is what we are doing!*]

<sup>33</sup> Indeed, the entire Gospel that we preach depends on the proper understanding of this article. Upon it all our salvation and blessedness are based, and it is so rich and broad that we can never learn it fully.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Cf., Isa. 25:8.

<sup>2</sup> Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ascension.

<sup>1</sup> Theodore G. Tappert, ed., *The Book of Concord the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. (Philadelphia: Mühlenberg Press, 1959), 414–415.