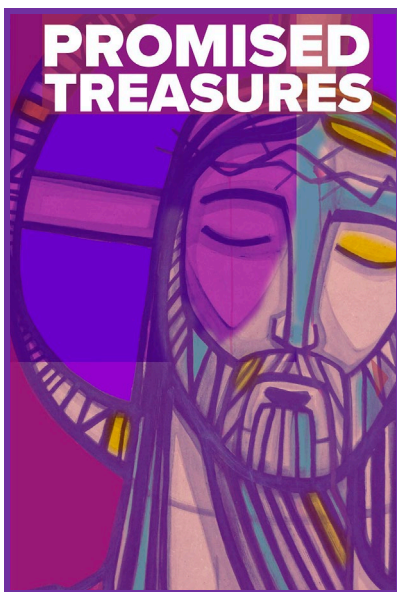


# Zion Lutheran Church



February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
Evening Service

## Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with ashes. The wearing of ashes on our forehead may seem like an unusual tradition, but it is rich with meaning. From the earliest days, God's children have repented before Him in sackcloth and ashes, a visual reflection of their hearts turning to Him for forgiveness and restoration. Fixing our eyes on Jesus during the forty-day season of Lent, we journey with Him to Calvary's cross where, enduring the "ashes" of our sins and the penalty they deserve, He grants to us the beauty of His forgiveness, full and free. Let us be renewed in our hearts and minds this day as we gather in the Lord's house. His Word will show us our great need for His saving love and deliver to us the treasures He has promised.

**OPENING HYMN – Christ, the Life of all the Living #420 (stanzas 1-4)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Christ, the life of all the living,<br>Christ, the death of death, our foe,<br>Who, Thyself for me once giving<br>To the darkest depths of woe:<br>Through Thy suff' rings, death, and merit<br>I eternal life inherit.<br>Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,<br>Dearest Jesus, unto Thee. | 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only<br>That my wounds might all be whole;<br>Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,<br>Rest to give my weary soul;<br>Yea, the curse of God enduring,<br>Blessing unto me securing.<br>Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,<br>Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.                                |
| 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee<br>Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;<br>Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,<br>O Thou sinless Son of God!<br>Thus didst Thou my soul deliver<br>From the bonds of sin forever.<br>Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,<br>Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.       | 4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,<br>Treating Thee with shameful scorn<br>And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.<br>All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,<br>That as Thine Thou mightest own me<br>And with heav'nly glory crown me.<br>Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,<br>Dearest Jesus, unto Thee. |

**ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS**

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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 so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

**LITANY**

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 teaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and 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 IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*The congregation may come forward to receive ashes in the sign of the cross.*

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

*After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence and may be seated.*

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, You have continually manifested Your love, delivering Your people from their sins not due to merit or worthiness but purely out of mercy and for the sake of the obedient life, life-giving death, and victorious resurrection of Your Son. Bless this Lenten journey to the cross that with new hearts we may acknowledge

Your kindness and live in repentance and in the obedience of faith; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** -- *Joel 2:12–19*

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
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.

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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
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.

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?’”

Then the LORD became jealous for his land  
and had pity on his people.  
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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

#### **EPISTLE READING** -- *2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says,  
“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



## VERSE FOR LENT

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## HOLY GOSPEL – *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“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.

“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. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“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. 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.

“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. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 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.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will  
come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY – One House Abides Unending

1 One house a - bides un - end - ing, One Mas - ter fears no fall,  
 2 The wealth of all cre - a - tion We squan - dered at our birth.  
 3 With end - less hun - ger driv - en The grave cried out for more,  
 4 Ex - change our ash for beau - ty, A - noint our grief with joy;

One Lord pro - vides, at - tend - ing The dai - ly want of all.  
 The heirs of con - dem - na - tion Sowed tears in blight - ed earth.  
 But Je - sus Christ has giv - en Safe pas - sage through its door:  
 Dear Lord, who paid our du - ty, All grace for us em - ploy.

When ru - in would al - lure them Whose one es - tate was need,  
 But light, the world's first trea - sure, The Mas - ter worked a - new  
 His flow - ing blood our rai - ment, The flood to purge our shame;  
 Feed us the sav - ing man - na Lest on the way we fail

One Fa - ther would se - cure them In will, in trust, in deed.  
 In prom - ise, and in mea - sure No mor - tal eye could view.  
 The liv - ing God the pay - ment That buys for us His name.  
 And sweet - en our Ho - san - na To ho - ly Eas - ter's hail.

## SERMON

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P With repentant hearts, let us turn to God in prayer for the Church, the world, and all who are in need, trusting that God is gracious and merciful to us in Jesus, abounding in steadfast love.

For the Church, that this Lenten season draws us closer to God and to one another as we focus on Jesus' redemptive acts for us and the life that He calls us to live—marked by repentance, fasting, prayer, and acts of love toward our neighbors. In prayer,

C **we return to You, O Lord.**

P For those who are sick, hospitalized, or dying, [*including . . .*], that they experience healing according to Your will, and that in the midst of their suffering they would experience the presence of Jesus in words of hope and acts of care. In prayer,

C **we return to You, O Lord.**

P For this congregation, that our intensified repentance, fasting, and prayer lead us to live in renewed ways, dying to sin with Christ in Holy Baptism each day, and being raised to new life as well every day and into eternity. In prayer,

C **we return to you, O Lord.**

P For our loved ones who faithfully followed Jesus in this life and are now with Him in heaven, we give thanks. Bring us to that day when all Your saints, past, present, and future, are returned to You for all eternity. In prayer,

C **we return to you, O Lord.**

P By the words of the prophets and by the living voice of Jesus in our ears, You call us to return to You, O Lord. According to Your gracious mercy and abounding love, hear these prayers that we this day have spoken, as well as the prayers we have that are too deep for words; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## **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.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **PRAYER**

P We give You thanks that You have sent to us Your own Son to be the Passover Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Grant to us faith like John the Baptist to keep our eyes upon the Lamb and to proclaim Him before the world, that those not yet of Your kingdom may rejoice with us in the love that has forgiven and restored us to be Your people; through Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN – Christ, the Life of all the Living #420 (stanzas 5-7)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,<br>That from pain I might be free;<br>Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:<br>Thence I gain security;<br>Comfortless Thy soul did languish<br>Me to comfort in my anguish.<br>Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,<br>Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.               | 6 Thou hast suffered great affliction<br>And hast borne it patiently,<br>Even death by crucifixion,<br>Fully to atone for me;<br>Thou didst choose to be tormented<br>That my doom should be prevented.<br>Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,<br>Dearest Jesus, unto Thee. |
| 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,<br>For Thy sorrows deep and sore,<br>For Thine anguish in the Garden,<br>I will thank Thee evermore,<br>Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,<br>For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,<br>For that last triumphant cry,<br>And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high. |   |

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