

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Ash Wednesday*

*February 22, 2012*



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## *February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012*

### **Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!**

“What’s your church doing for Lent?” I’m never comfortable when a “brother pastor” asks me this question. Either they just want to talk about what their church is doing for Lent, or they will try to pick apart what my answer will be. This year, I was stuck with a difficult decision to make. On the one hand, you want to do something with the season of Lent that causes one to reflect on the sacrifice and suffering of Christ for the sins of the world. On the other hand, you also want to keep attention on the scripture passages we are reading for our “Bible in a Year” emphasis. So what do you do for Lent (and Ash Wednesday)?

This year, we are going to focus on the scripture readings for our Bible in a Year, but we are going to do so through the lens of the cross, paying extra careful attention to what the passages have to say about the suffering and death of Christ.

For our service this evening, our focus is on Psalm 52, the assigned Psalm for today’s “Bible in a Year” reading. I think you will be pleased how this Psalm addresses Ash Wednesday themes of mortality, the sinfulness of man, and the need for a Savior.

This Lenten Season, I encourage you to commit yourself to (continuing to) read the Bible in a Year. For it is only in the pages of Scripture that you learn about the suffering of Christ to atone for your sins, my sins, and the sins of the world. It is only in Scripture that the true meaning for Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent can be found.

God bless your time in worship this evening.

-Pastor Duncan

**Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor**  
Pastor’s Phone: 412-667-0967

**Darren Elikor, Pastoral Assistant**  
Office Phone: 412-221-4776

# Service of the Word

## *The Prelude*

## *Introduction to Worship*

## *Hymn-sing*

While you can choose any of the hymns in the hymnal, please keep in mind the serious and reflective nature of this service and season of the Church Year.

## *Announcements*

(please stand)

**Opening Hymn:** Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus 531

## *The Invocation*

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## *Confession and Absolution*

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

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

**Pastor:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** **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.**

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** Amen.

### ***The Meaning of Ash Wednesday***

### ***The Imposition of Ashes***

### ***The Prayers***

(Please be seated)

### ***The Offering***

### **The Scripture Lesson: Psalm 52**

To the choirmaster. A Maskil of David, when Doeg, the Edomite, came and told Saul, "David has come to the house of Ahimelech."

Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day.

Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right.

(Selah)

You love all the words that devour, O deceitful tongue.

But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living. (Selah)

The righteous shall see and fear, and shall laugh at him, saying,  
“See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the  
abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!”

But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.

I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.

I will thank you forever, because you have done it.

I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God**

(Please be seated)

### ***Sermon***

### ***The Final Prayer***

### ***Benediction***

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People:** **Amen!**

***The Recessional:*** Jerusalem the Golden

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### ***The Postlude***

**† *Service Participants* †**

The Officiant:	The Rev. Duncan McLellan
Pastoral Assistant:	Darren Elikier
The Organist:	Paula Gardner
The Elders:	Michael Sterba & John Gielarowski
The Acolyte	Joshua Gielarowski
The Ushers:	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, & Jack Oelschlager and Neil Ackerman, Chuck LaJeunesse, Brian Pasquini, & Lois Sauro
Altar Guild:	Sarah Ali & Melanie Becker