

**February 14, 2024  
7:00 P.M. Holy Communion**



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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## AS WE GATHER

*Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.*

*In keeping with the solemn nature of the Ash Wednesday liturgy, we invite you to spend this time in silent meditation and reflection.*

**Our Worship begins in Silence . . .**

**PRELUDE**

*The Old Rugged Cross*

*arr. Larson*

**INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

P: As we begin our Lenten pilgrimage, let us humbly bow our heads and confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,

C: **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault , by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: Our false judgments, uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

### ***The Sign of Ashes in the WORD and in the World***

P: Gracious Lord, ashes remind us of our human frailty and mortality. As a sign of our heart-felt repentance and sorrow, the sign of the cross is made upon our foreheads.

**C: Keep us mindful, O Lord, of our need for grace. Amen.**

*(Ashes speak of condemnation for sin.)*

P: When man fell into sin, judgment and death came to all.

**C: Dust we are and to dust we shall return.** *(Genesis 3:19; Psalm 90:3)*

*(Ashes speak of frailty and our total dependence upon God.)*

P: We are but frail human beings who must rely upon You, dear Father. All living things “look to You and You give them their food at the proper time,” but “when You hide Your face, they are terrified; when You take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.” *(Psalm 104:27, 29)*

**C: You richly and daily provide us with all that we need to support this**

**body and life. You defend us against all danger and guard and protect us from all evil. All this You do out of Your fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us.**

*(Ashes speak of humiliation and repentance.)*

**P:** As people of faith humbled themselves in Your Holy Word and expressed their repentance and mourning in the signs of sackcloth and ashes, we also humble ourselves before you as we ask You to forgive our sins through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** **Almighty God, the prophet Jeremiah warned Your people against trusting in false gods of wood and stone. Likewise, we often trust in the works of our own hands. By our very nature we are sinful and this nature has given birth to sinful deeds: things we do and the things we leave undone. We are but dust and ash of the ground and we deserve nothing more than to return to the dust. Though we deserve Your stern judgment, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive and renew us. Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES** *(Genesis 3:19)*

*The minister applies ashes to the forehead of each person with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

**ABSOLUTION** *(Ashes speak of renewal and rebirth.)*

**P:** We learn more about ashes from nature.

**C:** **Wildfires destroy forests, creating ash. Destructive volcanoes erupt, spreading ash for miles.**

**P:** Yet, beneath these ashes stirs the regeneration of life. The very ground, once destroyed, is nourished and fed, from which new life springs forth in exceeding abundance.

**C:** **By death and resurrection of Christ Jesus we have rebirth and renewal. Through the Gospel, God the Holy Spirit brings forth the fruit of the Spirit in our lives with exceeding abundance.**

**P:** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C:** **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**P:** Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord

P: Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.  
C: **Amen.**

**HYMN Red hymnal #629**

*Abide with Me*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

C: **Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, whom with you and the Holy Spirit we worship and praise, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

**CHANCEL CHOIR** Director: Bill Jones  
Composer: Mary Kay Beall

*He Became a Lamb*

**THE WORD**

*The congregation stands.*

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 6th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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. "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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "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. But 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. "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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MEDITATION

**HYMN** Red hymnal #328

*Restore in Us, O God*

## OUR RESPONSE

### NICENE CREED

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance**

with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

*Following each petition the Pastor will say . . . “Lord in Your mercy,” the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.” Following the last petition the congregation responds, Amen.*

*The congregation is seated.*

## **OFFERING—Invitation—God’s work continues**

### **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*Music in Red hymnal #186*

**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. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

**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** *(All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion.)*

**HYMN** Red hymnal #320

*The Glory of These Forty Days*

**BLESSING FOR THE LENTEN JOURNEY**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord lead us along the ways of peace. Show us Your ways, O Lord,

**C: and teach us Your paths,**

P: so that our ways are directed

**C: to keeping Your commandments.**

P: The crooked shall be made straight

**C: and the rough places smooth.**

P: Lord, hear our prayer,

**C: and let our cry come before You.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, You led children of Israel through a mighty sea to freedom and to the promised land. So lead us now on our journey through these days, that it may lead to a greater commitment of faith in You and in Your Son, into whose death and resurrection we were baptized. Hear us, Father, for His sake.

**C: Amen.**

**SILENT RECESSION**

**Our Lenten journey now begins . . .**

**Come Worship With Us**

Saturday Service 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.

**Midweek Lenten Service**

Wednesday, March 6th @ 6:00 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday Service**

Thursday, March 28th @ 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday Service**

Friday, March 29th @ 7:00 p.m.