



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

INTRODUCTION

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.

Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 14, 2018



**A Service of Word & Sacrament
Confession and Imposition of the Ashes**

12:10 & 6:10 PM



**Please stand if able*

P: Pastor; C: Congregation

ELW—Red Book

GATHERING

***A READING FROM JOEL 2: 1-2, 12-16a**

***EXHORTATION TO ENTER INTO LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

ELW #608

***ORDER FOR CONFESSION (BASED ON PSALM 51)**

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness.

C: In your great compassion, blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness. Cleanse me from my sin. I know my transgressions. My sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned, I have done what is evil in your sight. You are justified when you speak. You are upright in your judgment.

Silence

P: Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother’s womb.

C: For behold, you look for truth deep within me. You, alone, will make me understand wisdom secretly. Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure. Wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. Make me hear of joy and gladness that the body you have broken may rejoice. *Silence*

P: Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Hide your face from my sins.

C: Blot out all my iniquities. 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. Give me the joy of your saving help again. Sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

Silence

P: Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: O God of my salvation, deliver me from death, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

C: Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.....I was willing to offer you an act of sacrifice but you take no delight in burnt-offerings. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit. A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. *Silence*

P: Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.**

***THE IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES**

Please come forward to receive the ashes at the baptism font. Feel free to go to the altar afterwards for prayer.

P: Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.

After the Imposition of the Ashes the Litany is spoken:

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

C: That we may show forth your glory to the world.

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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 receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

WORD

LESSON

Romans 8:1-4; 12-17

***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 23:33-38

HOMILY

Rev. Gary Haddock

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

ELW #773

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.**

MEAL

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER V**

p. 65-66

***LORD’S PRAYER**

p. 134

DISTRIBUTION

"Let All Mortal Flesh"

Flute solo, Carol Schafer

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER/BLESSING**

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BENEDICTION

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HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF LENT

Though the Scriptures do not mention Lent, it has a longstanding tradition in the Church. It began very simply as a time of preparation for Easter. At first this was a 2-day fast (Friday and Saturday). Though not certain how it developed, by 350 A.D., the 40-day fast was already established. The earliest reference to a 40 day fast leading up to Easter is the Second Festal Letter of Athanasius in 330 A.D. Today, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday (Sundays are excluded to preserve the number 40).

Historically, Lent had two major emphases: 1) It was seen as a time of repentance and denial of self. All Christians were to examine their lives and repent where necessary; and 2) It was a time of instruction and preparation for the catechumens who were preparing themselves to become members of the Christian Church. Lent is an open invitation to enter into a deeper relationship with Christ through a conversion of heart and mind. For the baptized it is a return to their baptism in repentance, confession of sin, amendment of life, through disciplines that deepen and foster one’s spiritual life, and acts of self sacrifice that focus our call to service.

Lent is taking up our call to become, as Luther said, “little Christs.” The work of lent is a noble work of grace and the Spirit. We are invited and empowered to struggle, grow, and live into who we are called to be, and to become as those joined to Christ in baptism.

LENTEN EXHORTATION

P: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the discipline of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-16a

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near — a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. 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; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast.

ROMANS 8:1-4; 12-17

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh —for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

LUKE 23: 33-38

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

LENT 2018 MID-WEEK SERVICES

12:10pm Service with Holy Communion

6:10pm Service (*Preceded by Supper in the Family Life Center at 5:20pm*)

"The Crucified Life: Seven Words from the Cross"

Jesus said to his disciples: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23). As we take up the discipline of the crucified life for ourselves we will gather at the foot of the cross each week to listen to and to learn from Christ the Crucified in his last seven sayings from the cross. My prayer is that God will renew and transform our lives, will deepen our relationship with Him, and with each other as the body of Christ.

- ◆ **Midweek 2: Wednesday, February 21**
"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)
- ◆ **Mid-Week 3: Wednesday, February 28**
"Woman, behold, your son!...Behold, your mother!" (John 19:26–27)
- ◆ **Mid-Week 4: Wednesday, March 7** "I thirst." (John 19:28)
- ◆ **Mid-Week 5: Wednesday, March 14** "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)
- ◆ **Midweek 6: Wednesday, March 21** "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" (Luke 23:46)
- ◆ **Good Friday: Friday, March 30 (*Only at 8pm*)** "It is finished." (John 19:30)