

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*March 2, 2022
Ash Wednesday*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

****Please tune your radios to 103.1 FM****

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

GATHER IN SILENCE

THE GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ***And also with you.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: ***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. Amen***

FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Lector

A reading from Joel.

Because of the coming day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community declares that God is gracious and asks God to spare the people lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

¹Blow 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—
²a 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.

²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.

³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

Lector

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of

God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves

treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

HYMN OF THE DAY *All Things of Dust to Dust Return (ACS 920)*

1 All things of dust to dust return
on earth and in the sky.
The hottest, brightest suns that burn
in time grow dim and die.
The fish that leap, the birds that soar,
the newborn young that play,
the leaves that fill the forest floor
revert to dust and clay.

2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow
so I may comprehend
that ev'ry moment here and now
links me to that same end
I share with all that breathe and burn,
that flare and fade and tire
yet by their waning light discern
your own undying fire.

3 Lord, mark upon my brow this sign:
a stark and barren cross
reminding me that though divine
you know my pain and loss,
and at the touch of dust and ash
awake my heart to view
how death itself is but a flash
that dies away in you.

INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with

creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: 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 own 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, O God.*

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, O God.*

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

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

P: Our false judgments, our 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, O God.*

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, O God.

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

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

PRAYERS

A: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *[Brief silence]*

A: Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Encourage believers who hold the church's doors open to those who have felt excluded. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief, especially... Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *We lift them to the Lord.*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: *Christ has died.*

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life. And may this meal be a sign of your salvation, reminding us that your Son gave himself away for the sake of the world, and to save us; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, we pray,

C: Amen.

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

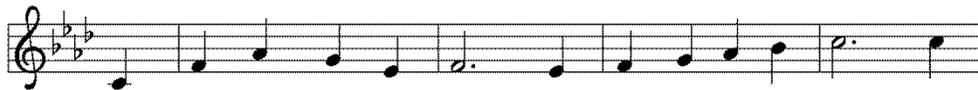
C: Thanks be to God.

At this time, all are invited to come forward to receive ashes. You will hear the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." As you return to your seats by the side aisles, pause to see the ashes reflected, and remember your mortality. Then receive the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, and know that, through Christ, we receive the gift of eternal life. You may speak the words, "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The blood of Christ, shed for you," to that same mortal reflection in the mirror.

COMMUNION

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Restore in Us, O God (BAYLOR) (ELW 328)*

Restore in Us, O God



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
 4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
 fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
 we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
 Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
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CONCLUDING PRAYERS

P: We are dust, O Lord. And yet we live, through you. 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 Savior,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C: Amen.

LENTEN PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of 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

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

DISMISSAL

A: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

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DEPART IN SILENCE

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – ASH WEDNESDAY, March 2, 2022

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Marilyn Gunn
- Lectors: Anita Philp
- Acolyte: Will Radtke
- Greeters: Sue & Steve Gilnett
- Ushers: Gordon Gunn
- Altar Guild: Dianne Absher & Anita Philp
