

**Ash Wednesday**

**14 February 2018 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

 **Zion Lutheran Church & School**

# Kearney, NE + (308) 234-3410

### Rev. James DeLoach, Pastor + (308) 627-5260

### Rev. Doug Gaunt, Pastor + (308) 455-0552

**Tony Splittgerber, Principal + (308) 293-0168**

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS**

**Please sign our guest book in the narthex and let us know how we can be of service to you. If you are a member in good standing of a sister LC-MS congregation, we invite you to commune with us. Members of other church bodies with whom we are not in confessional fellowship are asked to please refrain from communing. Our pastor will be happy to visit with you about our desire for true unity in Christ and how that is connected to our communion practice. All communicants need to register in the narthex prior to the service.**

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Ash Wednesday is one of the most solemn days of the church year. Worshipers are asked to gather in reverent silence before the service and leave the service in silence. Before the service please prepare for confession by meditating upon Psalm 32, 51, 90, the Ten Commandments (p. 321-322), or *Christian Questions with Their Answers* (p. 329-330). Due to the somber character of this service, music will be played only while singing the hymns and canticles.

During this Lenten season we will remember Jesus’ Baptism, His anointing with the Holy Spirit, and His words in Luke 4 – that He was anointed to show, and to be, mercy. As His people – hearing Him proclaim God’s Word and being God’s Word as Prophet; seeing Him sacrifice Himself on a cross and know that He intercedes for us as Priest; and knowing that we live under Him as King in righteousness and purity – we will be reminded of our work of mercy.

Today, worshipers will have the opportunity to receive ashes (mixed with a small amount of olive oil) on their foreheads as a sign of penitence and baptismal remembrance. They are also a call to repentance and a reminder of our mortality. The ashes call to mind God’s judgment and condemnation of sin, our frailty and total dependence on God, and humiliation and repentance. The words spoken as ashes are imposed, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” were first spoken to Adam after his fall into sin. Those words are also used at the time of the committal in the Christian Burial service, “... earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” Ashes also suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleaning agent. Thus, ashes are imposed in the shape of a cross to symbolize Christ’s victory for us over sin and death.

When it is time for the imposition of ashes those who desire to receive the sign of ashes walk down the center aisle and stand in front of the pastor on that side. He will apply ashes to the forehead in the form of a small cross and say, *“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”* The recipient shall then return via the side aisles. Unconfirmed children may come forward at their parents’ discretion.

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| 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. |

*Please stand as we observe a time of silent reflection and prayer.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 preaching 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 our need of 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 to graciously 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**

P Almighty God, You created us out of the dust of the ground. May these ashes remind us that we are dust and shall return to dust. May they also remind us of the cross of Christ by which we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated*

*Those who wish to receive ashes upon their foreheads in the sign of the cross may come forward at this time. People of all ages are welcome to participate in this rite and receive this symbol. After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his/her place in silence.*

⇩ **HYMN #419 ~ *Savior, When in Dust to Thee***

###### ⇧ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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| P | Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” These words remind us that we deserve death and God’s curse for we are sinful and unclean. |
| **C** | **You turn us back to dust, Lord. Before the day we die, we come to You with ashes upon our lives, the mark of the curse. We turn from our sin to face You, Lord. Forgive us and restore us, for Jesus sake, and speak to us another word besides “ashes to ashes and dust to dust.”**  |

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

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| P | Assembled to hear God’s Word and receive God’s call to repentance, we admit that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful nature. We cannot deliver ourselves from death to life. Therefore, we take refuge in God’s infinite mercy, seeking and imploring His grace for the sake of Lord Jesus Christ. God, be merciful to us. |
| **C** | **May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and give us hope in all that Christ suffered in His passion. 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.** |

Service of the Word

**⇧ INTROIT** *Ps. 51:1–3, 10–12; antiphon: Ps. 51:17*

P The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

 a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

 according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**C Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,**

 **and cleanse me from my sin!**

P For I know my transgressions,

 and my sin is ever before me.

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God,**

 **and renew a right spirit within me.**

P Cast me not away from your | presence,

 and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.

**C Restore to me the joy of your salvation,**

 **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**All Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

 **and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

 **is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;\*

 a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.

**⇧****COLLECT OF THE DAY**

|  |  |
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| **P** | **Let us pray.****Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who repent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that confessing our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.** |
| **C** | **Amen.** |

#### ⇩ OLD TESTAMENT *Joel 2:12-19*

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### ⇩ GRADUAL *(based on Hebrews 12:2)*

P: [Oh, come,] let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

**C: the Author and Perfecter of our faith,**

P: Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame,

### C: and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 12th Chapter.

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

###### ⇧HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 12: 28-34*

(The responses before and after the Gospel are on pages 190-191.)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

⇩ **HYMN #702 ~ *My Faith Looks Up to Thee***

⇩ **SERMON ~ Dying *& Rising with Christ –Ten Commandments***

⇧ **OFFERTORY 192-193**

##### ⇧ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As we begin our journey through this season of repentance and renewal, let us return to the Lord, who is gracious and merciful. O God, You call us to turn from sin and to live in the joy and freedom of the Kingdom of your Son. You invite us to receive the forgiveness earned through the merits of our Priest Jesus Christ. Give us strength through the word of our Prophet Jesus by equipping us with your word on our Lenten journey. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P O God, You call people everywhere to work for the good of all humanity. Empower the leaders of the nations to be ambassadors of mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P O God, grant compassion to all who minister to the sick and infirm: medical professionals, healing practitioners, and all caregivers. Show Your mercy to those who are ill [especially] and bring them peace of mind and heart. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P O God, You call us to turn from our sin and to live for You alone. Guide us through these 40 days of Lent to a fuller appreciation of Your baptismal grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, because Jesus was anointed for mercy we ask you to bless the mercy work provided locally by our congregation and nationally and internationally by the LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Use the offerings that we give to your glory and for the benefit of our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy.

**C hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

⇩ **OFFERING**

**Service of the Sacrament**

⇧ **PREFACE& SANCTUS 194-195**

⇧ **LORD’S PRAYER 196**

##### ⇧ WORDS OF OUR LORD 197

##### ⇧ PAX DOMINI & AGNUS DEI 197-198

⇩ **DISTRIBUTION**

**#915 ~ Today Your Mercy Calls Us**

**#610 ~ Lord Jesus, Think on Me**

**#611 ~ Chief of Sinners Though I Be**

⇧ **NUNC DIMITTIS & THANKSGIVING 200-201**

⇧ **SALUTATION & BENEDICAMUS 201-202**

##### ⇧ BENEDICTION 202

##### ⇧ HYMN #418 ~ *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

**Serving Zion This Evening**

**Preacher: Pr. James DeLoach Liturgist: Pr. Doug Gaunt**

**Elder: Dan Oertwig Organist: Carol DeLoach**

**Usher Captains: Marc Hoffman & Steve Junge**

**Acolyte: Reilly Fisher Altar Guild:**

 **Shirley Helmbrecht**