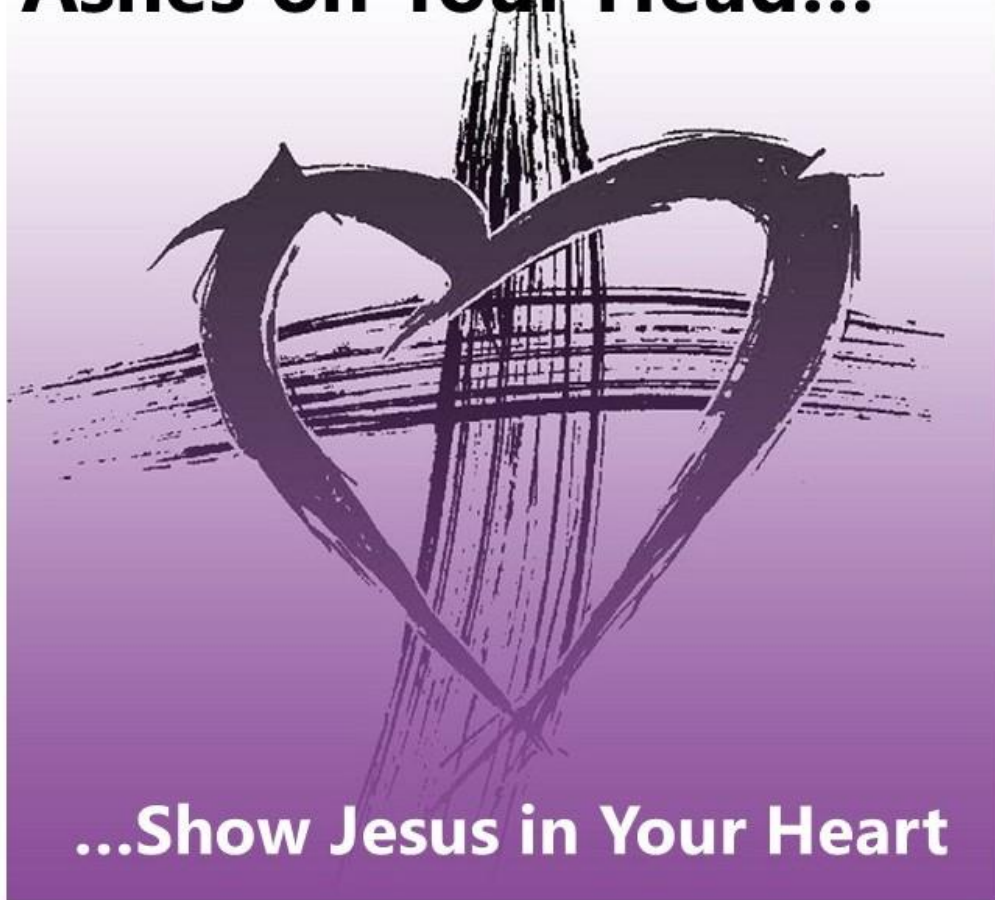


Ashes on Your Head...



+ Ash Wednesday - Nighttime +
February 14, 2024 at 7pm



Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping the Lord with us today!

Wednesday Night Divine Worship

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

Ashes on Your Head Show Jesus in Your Heart

NOTICE: As a courtesy to other worshipers, and out of respect for The Lord, please silence all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices, including children's toys. Thank you.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: Live audio of the worship service is available in our Crying Rooms. The first room is located just off the Narthex in the back of the sanctuary. The room has a bathroom. The other room located downstairs in our Fellowship Hall.

Prayer before worship: (Please pray silently): *O Heavenly Father, Your Son tells us that the worship of You is done in Truth and in Spirit. Bless our time together that the truth of Your Love will be revealed through the Holy Spirit. Thank You that we can again worship together in one sanctuary. Let us leave here today filled with strengthened faith, and zeal to love others. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen*

WORSHIP THEME: During this season of Lent, we reflect upon our sins, not to wallow in guilt or shame, but to acknowledge the ugliness of our iniquities, confess them before God, receive forgiveness, and then focus on living more repentant lives for Christ.

Ashes do not look good. Black and soot from ashes are often associated with destruction and death. Yet there is something cleansing about the Ashes given on Ash Wednesday. We pray you will see that in this meditative service this evening. You will have an opportunity to come before the Lord and receive the Imposition of Ashes. Tonight, we focus on the witness ashes on our head shows to others. But our witness isn't just a one-day event, but an everyday path to demonstrate God's love to others. We hear how that is done in our meditation this evening.

PRELUDE

WELCOME – WORSHIP THEME – GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

Bible Verse for Lent: *James 1:12 NIV*

P: Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test,

C: that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

P: God love you as you worship Him to persevere, being blessed with a stronger faith.

HYMN OF INVOCATION....“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”LSB 563

(Please turn and face the back of the sanctuary and follow the acolyte/elder carrying the flame, symbolizing the light of Christ. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the special presence of Christ in worship.)



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P Gracious Lord, ashes remind us of our human frailty and mortality. You are eternal, but we are limited in our days. You formed Adam from the dust of the ground, and someday we will return to dust. You remind us of this in your Word:

C Dust I am and to dust I shall return.

P We know Lord, ashes speak of condemnation for sin. When Adam fell into sin, judgment and death came to all. Since we all are born into sin, we are marked for death and ashes.

C Dust I am and to dust I shall return.

P Ashes speak of our total dependence upon you, O God. We are but frail human beings who must rely upon you, dear Father. We think we are capable of taking care of ourselves and make our own plans for greatness. However, so often these plans fail and crumble into ashes.

C Dust I am and to dust I shall return.

P Ashes speak of our humiliation and repentance. As people in the Bible humbled themselves and expressed their repentance and mourning in the signs of sackcloth and ashes, we also humble ourselves before You, O God, as we ask You to forgive our sins through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we repent and put on dust and ashes.

C Dust I am and to dust I shall return.

P People of God, as we see the meaning of ashes and dust for our lives as Christians, we now make our earnest confession unto the Lord. (Silence for meditation) Almighty God....

C You have always warned Your people against trusting in false gods of this world. I am sinful and this nature has given birth to my sinful deeds: things I have done wrong and things I have left undone. I am dust, and I deserve nothing more than to return to the dust, forever. I deserve Your stern punishment, now and forever. But for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me of all my sins and renew me to better live Your forgiveness. Amen.

HOLY ABSOLUTION

P You have heard the Word of the Lord, "Repent, and believe the gospel." With these words, Jesus began His ministry and now directs us to make repentance and hear His Good News. Therefore, as you have made repentance, now hear the Gospel. I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce to you the grace of God. Therefore, your sins are forgiven, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT Adapted from Psalm 102:9-13 NIV (*Introit is Latin for entrance. As the pastor enters "the Holy of Holies" Chancel area, he leads the congregation in adoration of the Lord through the responsive reading of one of the Psalms.*)

P: For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears because of your great wrath,

C: for you have taken me up and thrown me aside.

P: My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass.

C: But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations.

P: You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her;

C: the appointed time has come.

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

C: as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever

P: world without end.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF REFLECTION: "Sanctuary"Senior Choir

THE SALUATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY/THE COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray (*Moment of silence to collect our thoughts regarding the worship theme.*) O Holy Father of life, You give us the power over death. During this Lenten season, grant us the beauty of ashes as a symbol of Your mercy and promise of Your grace. Bestow on us tonight how the ashes on our heads show Jesus in our hearts as a witness to the power You have given us over death, showing others the magnitude of Your forgiveness. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING.....Genesis 3:17-19 NIV

God is handing out punishments after Adam and Eve gave into temptation and ate the forbidden fruit.

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;

for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”

THE EPISTLE READING.....1 Peter 3:13-22 ESV

The Apostle Peter wrote to the early Church to offer purpose in pain and how to see God's relief when suffering.

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Oh How He Loves You and Me” ...BROWN 513

**Oh how He loves you and me
Oh how He loves you and me
He gave His life what more could He give
Oh how He loves you
Oh how He loves me
Oh how He love you and me**

THE GOSPEL READING.....Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 ESV

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Apostle, St. Matthew, the 6th Chapter:

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said the following as part of His Sermon on the Mount

1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

2 "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **3** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **6** But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **17** But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, **18** that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE NIGHT..... "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"LSB 423



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
 thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
 hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
 Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
 From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
 grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
 hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

SERMON: "Ashes on Your Head Show Jesus in Your Heart" Text: 1 Peter 3:15

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day he rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of
 God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the
 dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS FROM THE PEW

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense.

C: And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES...If you wish, please come forward. All repentant worshipers are invited.

This ancient act is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder about the meaning of the day. Ashes can symbolize dust-to-dustness and remind worshipers of the need for cleansing, scrubbing and purifying. If they are applied during an act of kneeling, the very posture of defeat and submission expresses humility before God. Source: LCMS.org

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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

THE BENEDICTION

P: The God almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless and preserve you unto life everlasting.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN..... Glory Be to Jesus".....LSB 433



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

5 Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!

P: Go in peace, with ashes on Your head to show others Jesus in Your heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NIV: New International Version

ESV: English Standard Version

LSB: Lutheran Service Book

Brown: The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration

Friday Night Fish Fry
5:00-7:00 pm
Messiah Lutheran Church
Feb. 16 - Mar. 22



Free will offering.
1531 Townline Ave. Beloit, WI
608-365-3794

Wednesday Midweek Lenten Fellowship Suppers are Returning

Wednesdays, February 14, 21 and 28, March 6, 13, and 20
from 5:45-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Menu for Wednesday, February 14 hosted by The Food Pantry

- Baked Chicken
- Corn and Beans
- Mash Potatoes and Gravy
- Make your own Sundae



“More of Christ’s Fruit in Your Diet”

is this year’s Midweek Lenten Suppers and Services...Wednesdays February 21 and 28, and March 6, 13, and 20. We dine together at 5:45pm with meals hosted by congregation members and groups. Then we worship together at 7pm. Each week one fruit of the Holy Spirit is explored from Galatians 5:22-23. Worshippers will receive an item on behalf of the congregation to help you remember the gift God gives through His Word.

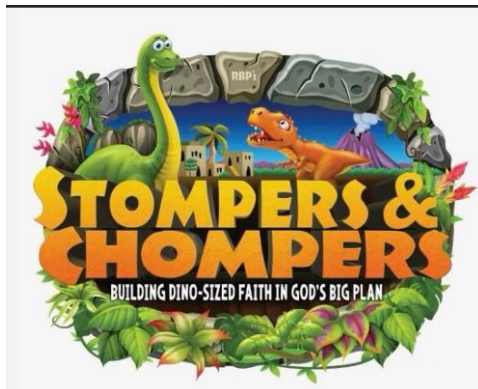


If you don't carry much cash or write many checks then Givelify is the perfect and easy way to give your offerings to Messiah. Simply download the app at the *Google Play Store* or *Apple App Store*. It is safe and secure. If you need help setting up the app, please contact Jim Shellenberger at (815) 275-2081 or Carl Creedy at (608) 201-2466.

The inaugural **Ladies Bible Study Class (LBSC)** was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Thanks to all who attended and we are grateful for a warm Fellowship Hall! We enjoyed pizza and punch as the Book of James was introduced. Ladies, you are lovingly invited to join in with us as we venture into James and understand how the teachings apply to our daily lives on Thursday, February 15, at 5:30pm in the Downstairs Conference Room.

Upcoming Events at Messiah

- Wednesdays, Feb 21, and 28, March 6, 13, and 20: **5:45pm – Lenten Suppers**
- Fridays, Feb 23, March 1, 8, 15, and 22: **5-7pm – Fish Fry Dinners**
- Weds. Feb 21, and 28, March 6, 13, and 20: **7pm – Midweek Lenten Services:**
Fruit of the Holy Spirit continues
- Sunday, February 25: ***Celebrating February Birthdays*** during Fellowship
- Sun, March 3 at 12:15pm – Lay Elder-Deacons' meeting in Upstairs Conference Room
- Saturday, March 9 at 9am – Men's Group in Downstairs Conference Room
- Tuesday, March 12 at 7pm: **Parish Planning Council Meeting** – downstairs Conference Room
- Sunday, March 17: **Congregational Meeting** after 9am worship; no 11am service
- Sunday, March 17: LWML Hosts Fellowship Time
- Thurs, March 21 at 5:30pm: **Ladies Bible Study** in downstairs Conference Room
- **Palm Sunday** Services, March 24: 9am and 11am, and Wednesday, March 27 at 7pm
- **Maundy Thursday**, March 28 at 7pm with Holy Communion and stripping of Altar
- **Good Friday**, March 29: **Tre Ore** Noon to 3pm at Trinity in Beloit
Tenabrae Service at 7pm at Messiah
- **Easter Sunday**, March 31 at 9am and 11am, and Wednesday, April 3 at 7pm
- **VBS**, Sunday, July 21 through Wednesday, July -24 5-5:30pm Dinner; 5:30-7:30pm



Messiah Lutheran Church

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Messiah is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

