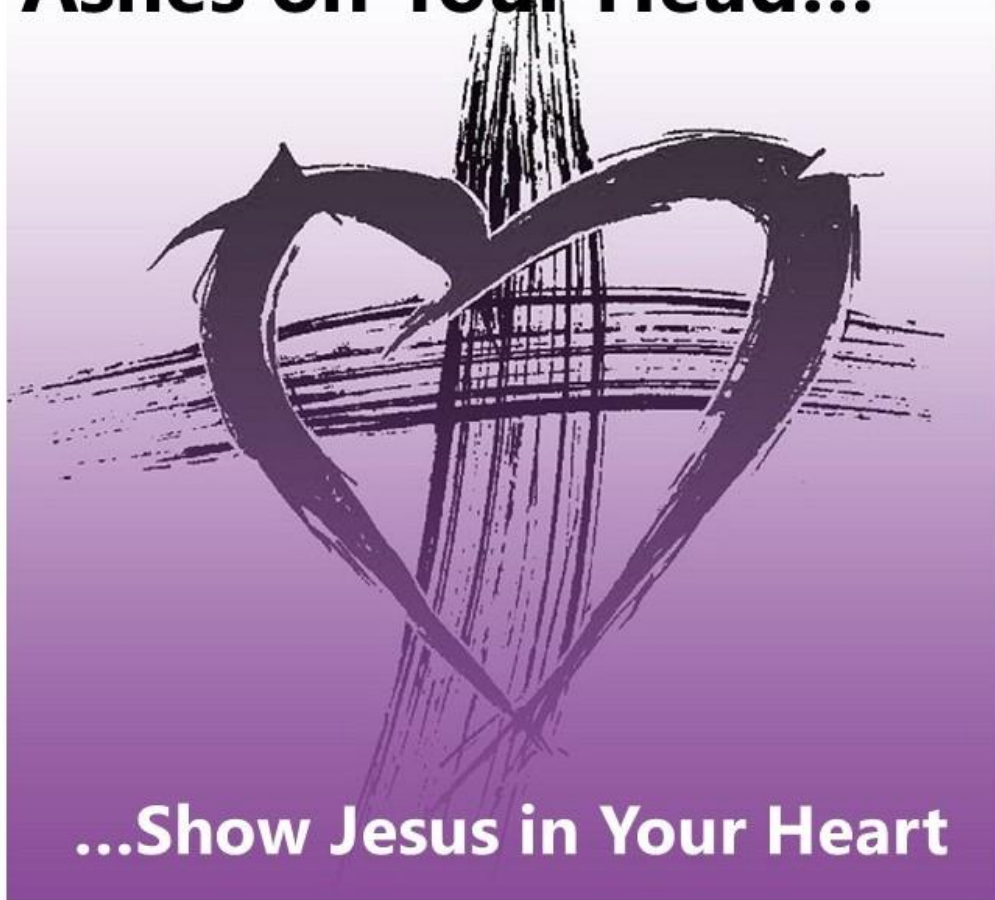


Ashes on Your Head...



+ Ash Wednesday - Sunrise +
February 14, 2024 at 6:30am



**Messiah Lutheran
Church**

1531 Townline Ave. Beloit, WI
(608) 365-3794

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

Wednesday Morning Divine Worship

Ash Wednesday Sunrise

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 morning. You will have an opportunity to come before the Lord and receive the Imposition of Ashes. Today, 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 morning.

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 by being blessed with a stronger faith.

HYMN OF INVOCATION.... "Just as I am without One Plea" LSB 570 Verses 1-4



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND HOLY ABSOLUTION

P: Dear Lord, we come to You this morning confessing of our sins...

C: Just as I am without one plea.

P: Sinners with our thoughts, through our words and by our deeds; acts of wrong and inactions of failing to do what's right.

C: Even though You did nothing wrong, You were both denied and betrayed.

P: Yet, You suffered and died for us; stricken, smitten, and afflicted.

C: Just as I am without one plea, so please don't deny me or betray me.

P: But forgive us of all of our sins, both those we know of but haven't brought to You, and those sins of which we are unaware. Your forgiveness we seek to welcome, pardon, cleanse, and relieve.

C: O Lamb of God, I come, I come. Amen.

P: Brothers and sister in Christ, God that Father has heard you. Jesus, His Son, our Savior, knows your every weakness. The Holy Spirit is here to forgive you and renew your faith in Him by the

power of His Word. So, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you of all of your sins in the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in + peace.

C: Amen.

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

HYMN OF REFLECTION..... "Just as I am One Plea" ...LSB 570 verses 5-6

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 Because Thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

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 10:26-33 NIV

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Apostle, St. Matthew, the 10th Chapter:

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁶ "So do not be afraid of them (Satan and his minions), for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³² "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MEDITATION: "Ashes in 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 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

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.

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.

