
OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday February 22, 2012
Pastors Donald McKee and Timothy Wheatley

A NOTE ON THIS EVENING'S SERVICE: Please enter the sanctuary in silence and use the time before the service and after you return from the Lord's table for penitent reflection on your life. The witness of the Gospel is that God forgives our sins. *Ashes have traditionally been the sign of repentance and will be available near the end of the service.*

Prelude

Announcements

Silence for Prayers/Reflection

Opening *Shall We Gather at the River* ELW #423

Thanksgiving for Baptism page 97

Apostle's Creed page 105

Lenten Hymn/Asperges *All Who Believe and Are Baptized* ELW# 442

First Lesson Job 38:4-11

Choir Anthem *Create in Me*

Second Lesson Revelations 7:13-17

Hymn *Lord Let My Heart Be of Good Soil* ELW # 512

Gospel John 3:1-5

Sermon

Confession

Awesome and challenging God, hold us close for this moment, so that with your support we might look deep within and let your healing light purify our darkness. Only in your grasp can we face our struggles - our frantic pursuit of busyness; the ease with which we tolerate the troubles and inequities of our divided society; the acceptance of bottom-line thinking as the final word; the fear of differences that keeps us from receiving gifts of others; our reluctance to get involved.

Holy and disturbing God, keep us close to the cross and let us experience your transforming love that turned a sorrowful Friday into an Easter hope. Renew our hearts, refashion our lives and revive our spirits. Amen.

THERE IS NO ABSOLUTION THIS EVENING FOR WITHOUT THE CROSS, THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS OF SINS. ABSOLUTION WILL BE GRANTED AGAIN ON MAUNDY THURSDAY.

Prayers

Offering

Offertory Prayer page 107

Great Thanksgiving page 206

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy page 207

Words of Institution page 108

Lord's Prayer page 208

Distribution

Imposition of Ashes

Blessing

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* ELW # 324

Lenten Worship Dates: Lenten services 2/29, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, and 3/28 at 6:30 pm. Maundy Thursday service April 5th at 6:30 pm, and Good Friday service April 6th at 6:30 pm. Easter worship will be on April 8th at 7:30 am & 10:00 am.

Communion Practice: We welcome all believers in Christ to commune with us. Our Savior's offers grape juice as an alternative for those who choose not to receive the wine. Each tray will carry several glasses of white grape juice. If you prefer to receive the grape juice instead of the wine, please feel free to take the white grape juice located in the center of each tray. If you cannot come to the Communion rail, the Pastor would be happy to come commune you in your pew. Let one of the ushers know that you need Communion in your pew.

Ashes are available as you leave the communion rail. Please pause to have the sign of the cross placed on your forehead as you leave the altar area. 'Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.

Church choir will practice Wednesday evenings following worship.

Lent is traditionally about Christ's journey to the cross. This year we will focus our work on how God uses water for cleansing and renewal. Martin Luther once said, "We are to die daily to sin and rise to a new life through the waters of Baptism."

Throughout history, God used water for cleansing and renewal. Some pastors use an aspergillum to sprinkle the congregation with water. This time of asperges comes after affirming their faith.

This year we will use ashes and water to remind all that we die to sin and are called to a new life by Jesus Christ. In the Lutheran Magazine for February, one author says that Lent is a time to experience the flow of God's grace.

In the end, all we can do is realize our sin, and then it rests in the hands of God to wash away sin and bring new life.

When we worship, there are many words that remind us of God's many uses of water.

In baptism, we use Martin Luther's flood prayer. In many hymns there are water references. In the funeral service we are reminded of that final cleansing that brings eternal life to our sin-sick and weary souls.

We thank God as we experience the flow of God's grace in our lives.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Montevideo, Minnesota

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