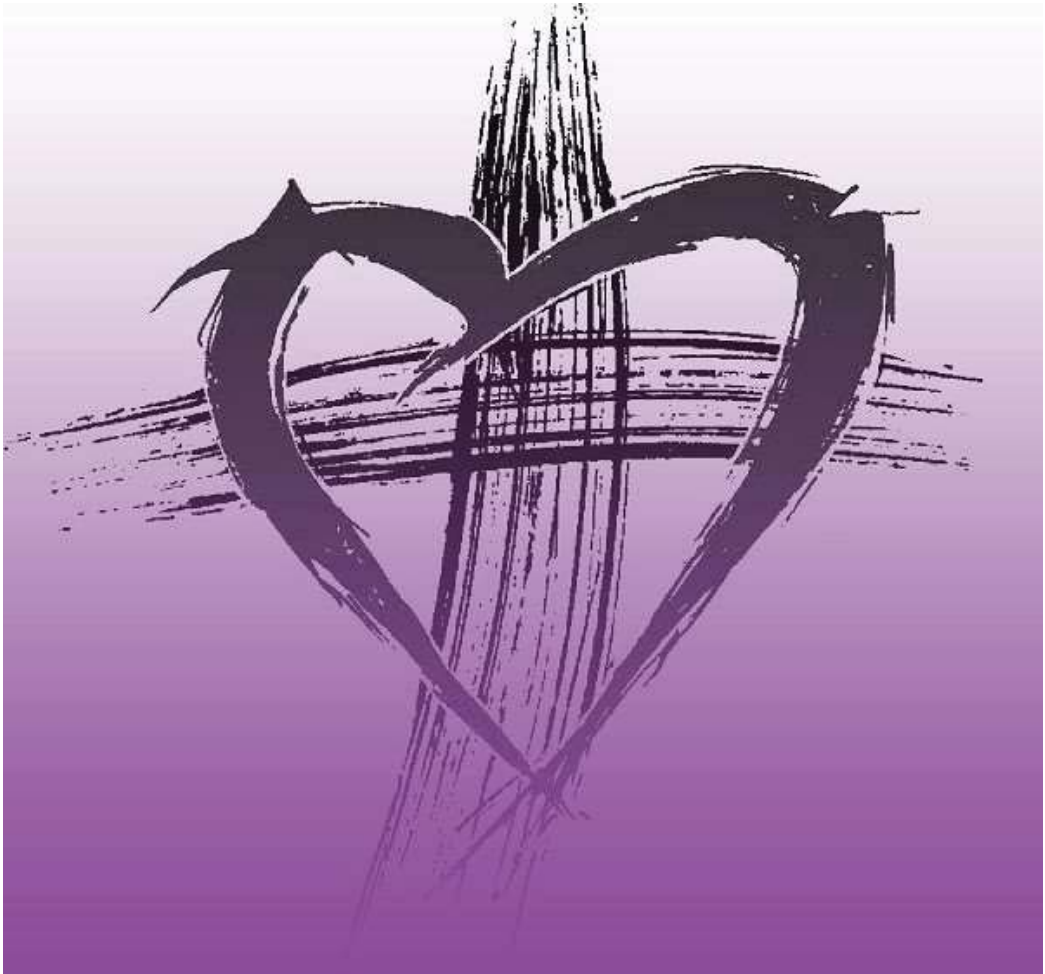


# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Ash Wednesday*

*February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

# *Ash Wednesday*

Welcome to worship! And thank you for making time in God's house with your church family focusing on the love of God in Jesus Christ a priority in your life. I know many of you have busy schedules that make it hard for you to carve out the lion's share of your evening for anything other than the status quo. Again, thank you for being here.

This evening, we are going to look at several texts from the Bible that speak to the frailty of life, the treacherous road we walk on by faith, and the ultimate victory over sin, evil and death won by our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose for Ash Wednesday is to take a sober look at the reality that "you are dust and to dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday takes us into the church-year season of Lent, a season of repentance and reflection, contemplating the suffering of Christ and what was necessary for God to atone for our sins.

We will follow-up our Ash Wednesday service with our weekly Midweek Lent services where we will look at passages of Scripture that teach us about the sacrifice Christ made for our sins. The focus of the whole Bible is the good news of Jesus Christ; there are many more passages that speak to his suffering and death than we will cover. But we hope to at least give the sacrifice of Christ more attention and more depth than we can on Good Friday alone.

So please join us, as we spend time this Lenten Season contemplating and rejoicing in all that God has done for us through Jesus Christ our Lord!

- Pastor Duncan

**Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor**

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# Service of the Word

## *The Prelude*

## *Introduction to Worship*

## *Hymn-sing*

While you can choose any of the hymns in the hymnal, please keep in mind the serious and reflective nature of this service and season of the Church Year.

## *Announcements*

(please stand)

**Opening Hymn:** God Loved the World So That He Gave 571

## *The Invocation*

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## *Confession and Absolution*

**Pastor:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People:** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**Pastor:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## ***The Absolution (spoken by the Pastor)***

### ***The Meaning of Ash Wednesday***

#### ***The Imposition of Ashes***

During the imposition of ashes, you are encouraged to come forward to have the sign of the cross made in ashes on your forehead. This serves as a reminder both of our mortality, but also of our being sealed in Christ for all eternity.

#### ***The Prayers***

**Pastor:** ...Lord, in your mercy.

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

(Please be seated)

#### ***The Offering***

### **The Old Testament Reading: Ecclesiastes 12:1-8**

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

**Elder:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God

## **The New Testament Reading: Revelation 12**

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a

time. The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

**Elder:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God**

***Sermon Hymn:*** O Savior, Precious Savior

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**The Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:34-42**

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

***Sermon***

***The Lord's Prayer***

***Benediction***

**People: Amen!**

***The Recessional:* All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

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***The Postlude***

**† *Service Participants* †**

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
Elders:	Paul Klemash & Mike Sterba
Acolyte	Augie Bishop
Ushers:	Shane Bryant, Michael Kozak, Melanie & Bill Becker, Vince Kimberland, Richard Quinlan, Linda & Kitt Kroeger
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian and Molly Oelschlager & Sarah Ali