

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ash 
Wednesday

Beginning of Lent
March 9, 2011

Ash Wednesday Midweek Service

March 9, 2011

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

You've had a long day. Work, school, and the kids got you up early and will keep you up late. Appointments, practices, and meetings; all necessary evils to getting to where you want to be. Phone calls, e-mails, and text messages telling you there's even more to do. And to cap it all off, you had to get home in time to regroup and get up to church by 7:00 just to be reminded that... you're mortal and going to die.

Ash Wednesday is about as far from a celebration as you can get. Rather, it is a service devoted to remind us that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday is a reminder that we are mortal. Sin has come into the world, and the wages of sin is death.

This year, Ash Wednesday will do two things for us at Zion Lutheran Church. Not only will it start the season of Lent (celebrated every Wednesday at 7:00 until Easter Sunday), it will also kick-off a series of messages focusing on prayers of some of the most famous people in Scripture. Why prayer during Lent?

Lent is a time for us to look at the suffering of Christ and our life under the cross. As people who have been called by Christ to represent Christ in the world, our lives should conform to the example of Christ. One of the examples Christ set was that of a powerful prayer life. And while our main focus during Lent will be the atonement, we will also keep an eye on the discipline of prayer.

God bless your time in worship this evening.

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor
Pastor's Phone: 412-667-0967

Darren Elikor, Pastoral Assistant
Office Phone: 412-221-4776

Service of the Word

The Prelude

Introduction to Worship

Hymn-sing

Before the service begins, offer your hymn requests to the pianist. We'll spend some time singing your favorites!

Announcements

A Word About the "Order of Service"

(please stand)

Opening Hymn: Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain 435

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, but 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.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

The Meaning of Ash Wednesday

The Imposition of Ashes

The Prayers

(Please be seated)

The Offering

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:5-15

“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 in full.

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.

And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **(sing) Praise be to thee, O Christ!**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

The Final Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen!**

The Recessional: All Glory, Laud, and Honor

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The Postlude

† *Service Participants* †

The Officiant:	The Rev. Duncan McLellan
The Organist:	Paula Gardner
The Elders:	Bill Bishop & John Gielarowski
The Acolytes:	Sydney Harris
The Ushers:	Bill Becker, Brent Miller, Wayne Oechslein & Larry Zreliak and Neil Ackerman, Tom Bicusky, Steve Kovach & Jim Neill
Altar Guild:	Janet & Marian Oelschlager