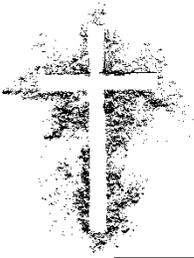


## Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

*“Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip God’s people for discipleship here and throughout the world.”*



**Ash Wednesday with Holy Communion  
& the Imposition of Ashes**

**February 22, 2023**

***For those who are hearing challenged,  
Zion has digital listening devices for  
your use during worship. Please ask an usher or  
council member for one and they will show you how  
to use it.***

*As you enter the worship space tonight you will receive the imposition of ashes at the door. This is entirely a voluntary act on your part and is not required to partake in Holy Communion. These words will be said, "Remember from dust you came, and dust you shall return." The sign of the cross will then be imposed on each willing forehead.*

## **Prelude – Bell**

### **Gathering**

**P-** On this Ash Wednesday, we begin our 40-day journey to Easter. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth.

**C- Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name. Psalm 103:1**

**P-** At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross

indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. **C- Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.** Psalm 103:1

P- We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

**C- Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.** *Psalm 103:1*

## **Gathering Hymn – Just as I Am Without One Plea ELW 592**

1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 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.

4 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.

## **Confession & Forgiveness**

*As you are able, please stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as pastor begins.*

P- Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

### **C- Amen**

P- Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our needs for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P- Holy God,

**C- we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;  
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;  
we spoil rather than steward your creation;  
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;  
we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen**

P- Hear the Good News:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so all may receive life,

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

+ forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power..

**C- Amen**

## **A Children's Sermon for Ash Wednesday**

### **Readings**

#### **Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

*Lector— Because of the coming day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community declares that God is gracious and asks God to spare the people lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
    for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
    a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
    a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
    nor will be again after them  
    in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,  
    return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
    rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.  
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain-offering and a drink-offering  
for the LORD, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.  
Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.  
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?' " Here ends this reading.

**Psalm 51:1-17 – Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon**  
*Read responsively.*

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone into Bathsheba.

Have mercy on me, O God,

**according to your steadfast love;**  
according to your abundant mercy

**blot out my transgressions.**  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
**and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,

**and my sin is ever before me.**  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
**and done what is evil in your sight,**  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
**and blameless when you pass judgement.**

Indeed, I was born guilty,

**a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

You desire truth in the inward being;

**therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness;

**let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,

**and blot out all my iniquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence,  
**and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
**and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
**and sinners will return to you.**

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
**O God of my salvation,**  
**and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

O Lord, open my lips,  
**and my mouth will declare your praise.**

For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
**if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.**

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

*Lector – The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths in our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation. Paul writes to the church in Corinth:*

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ,

be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,  
“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. Here ends this reading.

### **Prayer of the Day**

*As you are able, please stand.*

P- Gracious God,

**C- out of your love and mercy you breathed life into the dust, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our morality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### **Gospel – Matthew 6:1-21**

P- In the Sermon of the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

### **Concerning Almsgiving**

[To his followers, Jesus says:] “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

### **Concerning Prayer**

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the

street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever 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.

“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

“Pray then in this way:

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 do not bring us to the time of trial,

but rescue us from the evil one.

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

## **Concerning Fasting**

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your

head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

### **Concerning Treasures**

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” The Gospel of the Lord.

**C- Praise to you, O Lord!** *Please be seated*

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### **Message – A Sermon for Ash Wednesday**

#### **Offering Hymn – Softly and Tenderly ELW 608**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

"Come home, come home!  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

### **Offering Prayer**

*As you are able, please  
stand.*

P- God of good  
gifts,

**C- receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel,  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

### **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the  
Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin  
Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no  
end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church** – *When the pastor says, “Lord in your mercy” please respond with “**Hear our prayer.**”*

### **Words of Institution - Song of Consecration**

*Please join in singing the final verse in bold print.*

The night of his betrayal, our Lord took bread.  
He broke it as he blest it, and then he said,  
“My body broken for you...is what this means;  
remember now my children what you have seen!”

And then he took the chalice and raised it high,  
“My blood is given for you, a full supply...  
a covenant, a promise...a cleansing stream;  
remember now my children what you have seen!”

**We share this food together, remem’bring Christ:  
we share a common treasure and know the price;  
we share it without measure...a gift of love;  
we share our life forever, with God above!**

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John Ylvisaker c/o Fern M. Krueger, P.O. Box 321, Waverly, Iowa 50677

## **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;  
and 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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

P- Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

## **Communion Hymns**

### **Distribution of Holy Communion**

*We will be doing communion by flow through for those able to come forward to partake. Please follow the usher's directions and maintain social distancing. A team will bring communion to those unable to come forward. For those*

*who prefer the individual communion package, we have it available in the entryways.*

### **Prayer after Holy Communion**

P- Holy God,

**C- at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen**

### **Announcements in the Life of Our Church**

#### **Blessing & Dismissal**

P- God, giver of life,

+ Christ the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth,  
bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C-Amen.**

P- Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C- Thanks be to God! ZION...a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!**

## **Sending Hymn – The Glory of the These Forty Days**

ELW 320

1 The glory of these forty days  
we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, through whom all things were made,  
himself has fasted and has prayed.

2 Alone and fasting Moses saw  
the loving God who gave the law;  
and to Elijah, fasting, came  
the steeds and chariots of flame.

3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,  
delivered from the lions' might;  
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became  
the herald of Messiah's name.

4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too,  
return in fast and prayer to you.  
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,  
and give us joy to see your face.



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

# ZION'S ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER & ENTERTAINMENT



**Sunday February 26, 2023**

**5:00 p.m. Soup Supper starts in the  
basement of the Parish Hall, served  
with homemade cinnamon rolls**

**7:00 p.m. the entertainment begins  
upstairs in the Parish Hall!**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
18219 S. 80TH RD  
PICKRELL, NE



**The freewill offering goes to Jason & Kylie Church to  
help with expenses for their daughter, Cora  
(Granddaughter of John and Marcia Busboom).**