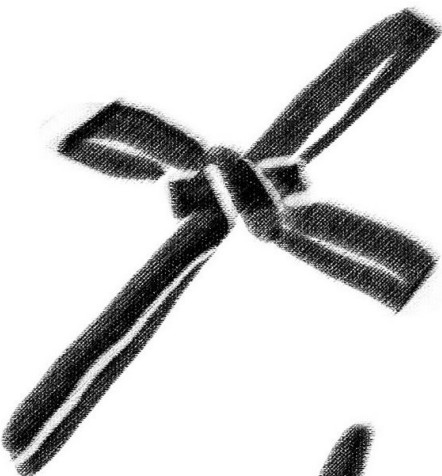


LORDSTOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

7:00PM

Ash 
Wednesday

RETURN
TO THE
LORD
YOUR
GOD

Worship Bulletin
Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Lordstown Lutheran Church
5615 Palmyra Rd SW Lordstown, OH 44481
330-399-7227
Rev. Steve Brown—Pastor
Mrs. Margaret Thomas — Organist
Mrs. Lois Dorazio—Choir Director

Today's Worship Theme

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. 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. 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.

We gather in Silence, humility and repentance.

GREETING

The immeasurable grace of Jesus Christ, the rich mercy of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

P: Amen

L: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holy God,

**P: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

L: Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ,

P: Amen

GATHERING HYMN (Vs ALL)

Restore in Us, O God

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1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Let us pray together.

ALL: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

God's Word for Us Today

First Reading: 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 reminds God of his

gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

1 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—

2 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.

12 Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

13 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.

14 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?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly; 16 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.

17 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?'"

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-17

LECTOR

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

3 For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so
you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

5 Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**6 Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

7 Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

**10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

13 Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

**14 Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**16 For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

17 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

Second Reading: 2 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 of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

20bWe entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6:1As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For 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! 3We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

The Holy Gospel According to St. Mathew
Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1“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.

2“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. 3But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5“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. 6But 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.

16“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. 17But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18so 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.

19“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; 20but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Rev. Brown

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

L: Friends in Christ, today with the whole Church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed, We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent - self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love - strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

PRAYER OF ACCEPTANCE

L: Let us pray

P: May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

Amen

We Offer Our Prayers and Thanksgiving

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of each intercessory prayer the Pastor says:

” O God,” and the people respond

“Your mercy is great.”

CHOIR ANTHEM “Farewell to Alleluia”

OFFERING SONG

O Bless the Gifts

O bless the gifts our hands have brought; And bless the
Work our hearts have planned. Ours is the faith, the will, the
Thought; The rest, O God, is in Your hand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

AMEN



*Offering Plates are Located by the doors to the Sanctuary or
You may mail your financial gifts to the church.*

Attn: Pat Hogan

5615 Palmyra Rd SW, Lordstown 44481

The Great Thanksgiving

This Table of Christ welcomes all without exception. Join us and experience the love of Christ as we come together to share in this sacred meal.

CHILDREN MAY ALSO RECEIVE A PASTORAL BLESSING. PLEASE TAKE A SMALL CUP FROM THE TRAY WHEN IT IS OFFERED. WINE WILL BE Poured FOR EACH PERSON BY AN ASSISTANT AND GRAPE JUICE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CENTER OF THE CUP TRAY IF PREFERRED. BREAD WILL BE BROKEN INTO SMALL PIECES AT THE COMMUNION RAIL AND GIVEN TO EACH PERSON.

DIALOGUE

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



PREFACE OF THE DAY

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (tune: *Holy, holy, holy*)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
Heav'n and earth embrace your glory
Praise we cry to you.
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.
Hosanna, hosanna, praise forevermore.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

ALL: 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

L: Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

DISTRIBUTION

Ushers will dismiss you to the communion rail. Wine will be poured from the chalice: grape juice is available in the center of the trays. Please deposit your cup in the basket.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Through the great Comforter, Advocate, and our faithful Guide, we have become a part of God's holy love. And so we pray to the eternal one

**ALL: Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
AMEN**

Going Forth to Serve

BLESSING

L: Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
And † give you peace.

AMEN

SENDING HYMN vs ALL

319 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past. word.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share your bread.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lent Soup Suppers

Join in Victor Hall at 6:00PM

Wednesday, February 21st

Wednesday, February 28th

Wednesday, March 6th

Wednesday, March 13th

Wednesday, March 20th

**Soup Supper will be followed by
fellowship with readings, discussions, games,
and praise songs.**

Please bring your own place setting





Altar Flowers



Presented by an Anonymous Donor

To provide altar flowers for worship, please sign up on the poster in the church lobby. \$25 for one vase \$50 for two.

PRAYER LIST & PASTORAL CONCERNS

Please keep our loved ones in your prayers this week

Immediate & Ongoing Health Concerns: Lucas Paxson, Ron Hill, Phyllis Housel, Jean Housel, Ted Paxson, Leo Divencenzo, Tiffany Fellows, Destiny Givens, Anna Strickland, JoAnn Leepard, Joe Harrison, Molly and Family, Mary Sabol, Mark Molnar, Laura Paxson, Rachael Ann, Ilona Rupnik, Linda Behner, Judy Beckwith, Phyllis Knox

Compassion Child: Marc Yvans.

Active Duty Military: Julian Krusely, Jason Layfield, Talon Brown, Kiana Gates

Scout Troop 20 and its leaders

Our Monthly Mission Outreach and The Children of Lordstown Elementary School

World Peace: Especially for those living in the region of Ukraine and Russia.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 330 399-7227,

TEXT OR CALL DREA AT 330-770-5585, OR EMAIL US AT

LTOWNLUTHERAN@YAHOO.COM TO NOTIFY US OF FRIENDS OR RELATIVES WHO NEED

TO BE ADDED OR REMOVED FROM THE PRAYER LIST.

Easter Flower Orders



NEXT SUNDAY, February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15