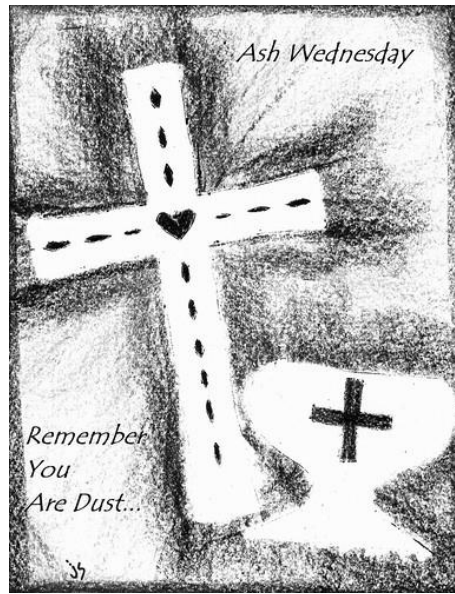


# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## ***ASH WEDNESDAY***

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET  
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059  
(717)-436-6213

**RADIO:** AM 1700

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**THIS EVENING’S INTRODUCTION:** *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.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
Church Office / 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister  
Bob St. Clair  
Andrea Cameron  
Andrea Cameron

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Linda Clark & Chris Martin

Vicar  
Organist  
Choir Director  
Lector  
Acolyte  
Offering Presenter  
Altar Guild

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 17, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

\*Please stand as YOU are able

### PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship].

### \* CONFESSION OF SIN

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most holy and merciful God,

**C We confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P ***Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.*** (Those who desire to receive the ashes as a reminder of their guilt, contrition, and mortality may, at these words, apply ashes in the form of a small cross on your forehead; in family groups, ashes may be applied on each other's foreheads).

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Savior,

**C bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**C Amen.**

### THE SERVICE

\* OPENING HYMN "Just as I Am, without One Plea" (vss. 1-3) bulletin, pg. 9

\* GREETING

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

\* KYRIE (spoken)

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P Christ, have mercy upon us.

**C Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.**

\* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (Spoken)

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray....

**C 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.**

## WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON.....Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

<sup>1</sup>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—<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>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?'"

PSALM.....Psalm 51:1-17 (**responsively**)

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

**<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**<sup>4</sup>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.**

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

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

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

**<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

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

**<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

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

**<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.**

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

**<sup>15</sup>O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**<sup>16</sup>For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.**

You are not pleased with burnt offering.

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

EPISTLE LESSON.....2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

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

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

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

\* THE VERSE

Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)

\* GOSPEL.....Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**C Glory to you, O Lord (spoken)**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"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.

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

<sup>5</sup>"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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>"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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

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

### **C Praise to you, O Christ** (spoken)

SERMON: "Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust" Vicar Sam Leister

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "Just as I Am, without One Plea" (vss. 4-6) bulletin, pg. 9

\* APOSTLES' CREED (all)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Prayers read by Worship Leader)

P Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

\* OFFERING PRESENTATION

\* OFFERING PRAYER

P Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**C We praise you, O God.**

P Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**C We bless you, O God.**

P We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**C We thank you, O God.**

P 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**C Amen.**

### \* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] (all)

**C 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 Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)

P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)

\* POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen.**

\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

\* BLESSING

P You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**C Amen.**

\* CLOSING HYMN “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” bulletin, pg. 9

\* DISMISSAL

P Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!**

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**WELCOME TO ALL!**

WITH CHRIST’S LOVE AND GOD’S GRACE, we welcome all who worship at Messiah this evening. If you are a VISITOR or GUEST, we invite you to record your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Vicar. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Young children are also encouraged to join us in our worship experience! We are so thankful that you joined us for worship today!

FOR YOUR COMFORT, restrooms are located in the hallway through the double doors of the Adult Sunday School Room and to the left.



WE WELCOME OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS from other churches of our community and appreciate the opportunity that is ours as fellow Christians to worship together. Messiah is glad to have you as our guests this evening and we pray that the service will be a rich blessing to you.

WE THANK all who are participating in the service this evening.

THE OFFERING PLATES are located in the Adult Sunday School Room.

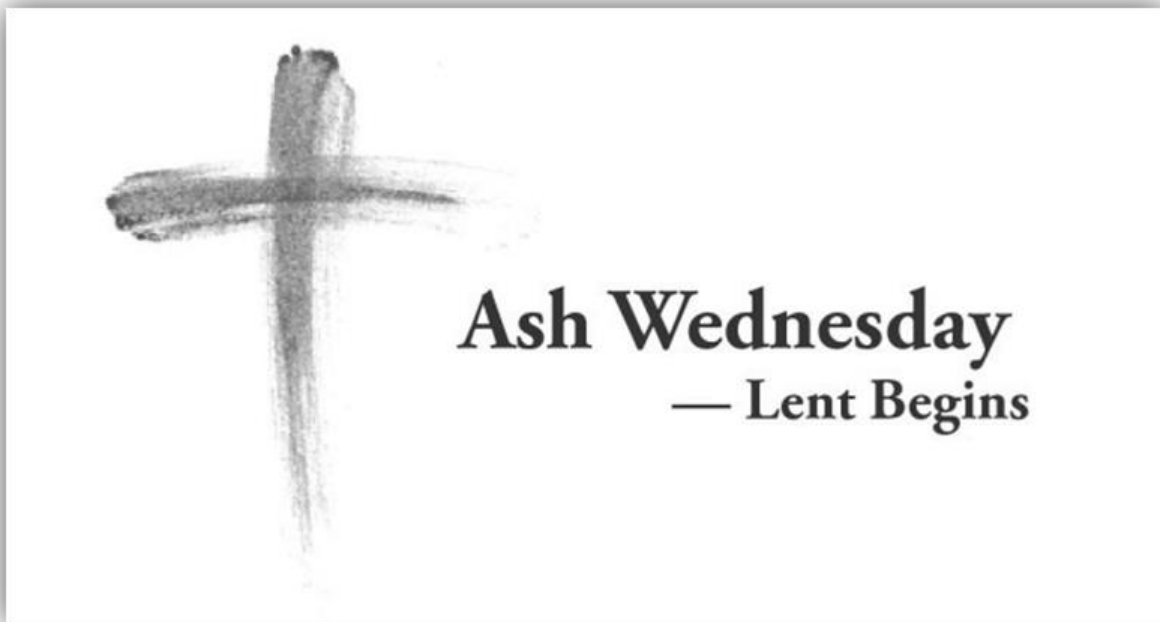
### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday is one of the most sober days of our church year. It is sober because we set aside this day that starts the Lenten season to reflect on the quality of our lives. And when we do, we reach three conclusions: we are sinners, we are mortal, and we need our relationship with God renewed. And all three truths lead to the cross of Christ.

Ashes are symbolic of all three of these truths. Sinfulness: from Old Testament times, ashes have been used to show our guilt before God, as when someone donned sackcloth and ashes as an outward sign of contrition. Mortality: ashes are the remains of something once alive: we recognize this in our Christian burial service with the words “earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” Renewal: ashes also symbolize cleansing (soap was often made from ashes) and new life (fields are burned after the harvest to clear the ground and fertilize the soil for the new season’s growth).

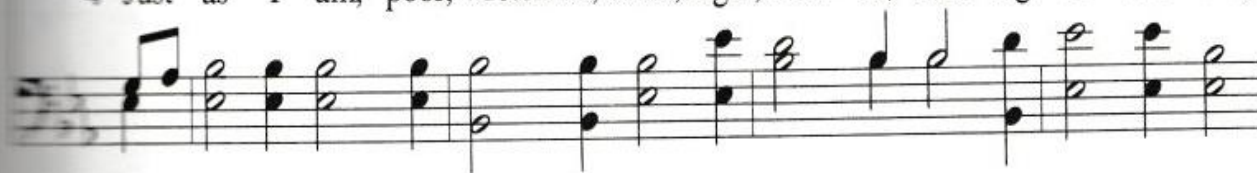
Therefore, since as early as the third century, Christians have used ashes as the symbol for this day which was set aside especially to recognize our great need for a savior, someone to save us from our guilt of sin and from our mortality and to renew us with the Father in heaven.

Those who wish will be able to follow this centuries-old Christian tradition of receiving ashes in the sign of the cross on their foreheads during our service this evening.

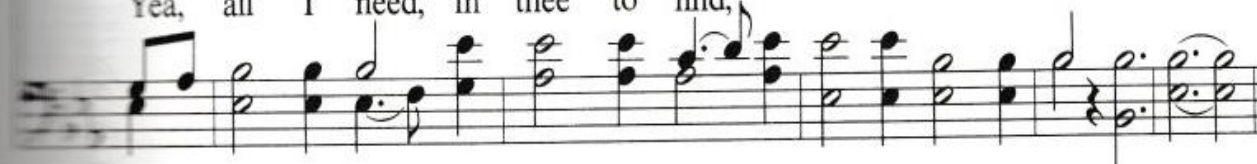




1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, But that thy blood was shed for me,  
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,  
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,



And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 Yea, all I need, in thee to find,



5 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.

6 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.

# 608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*

watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909  
 Music: Will L. Thompson

THOMPSON  
 11 7 11 7 and refrain