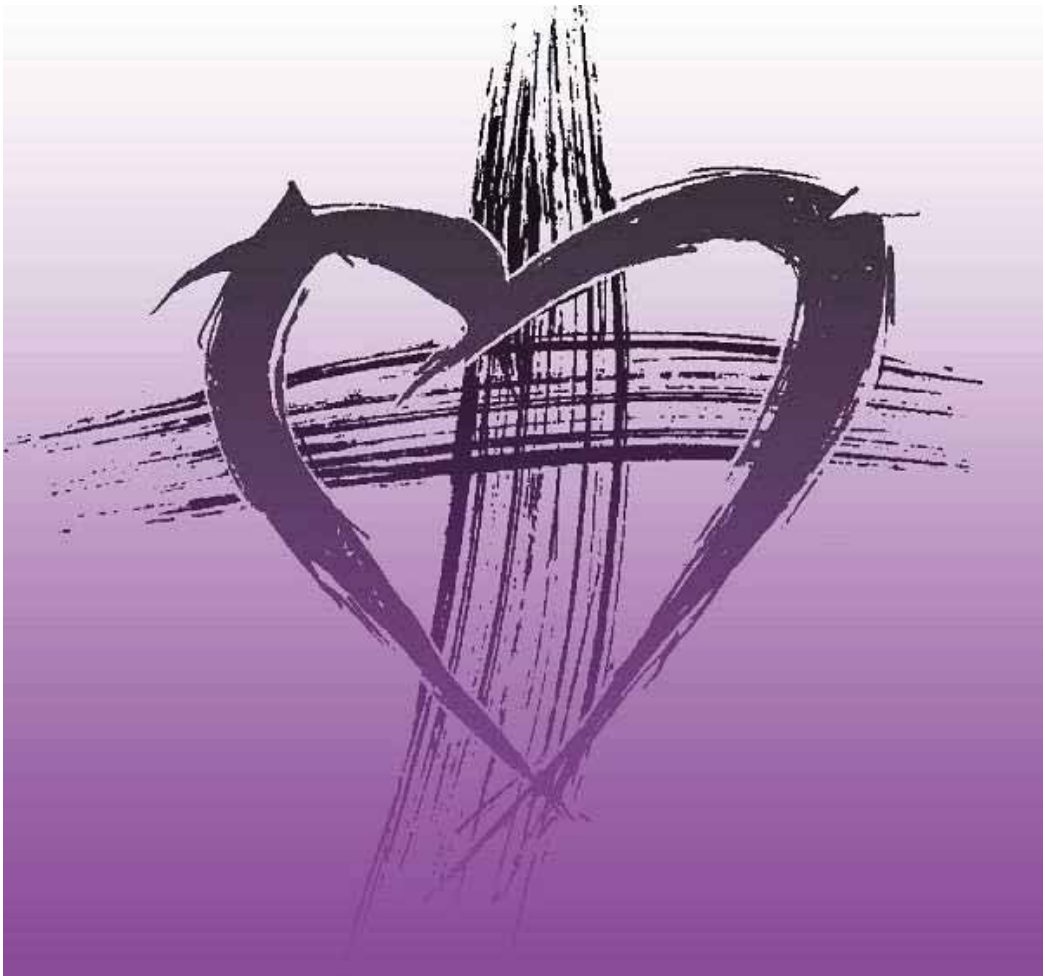


ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Ash Wednesday

February 10th, 2016

Ash Wednesday

Welcome to Worship!

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. More than just eating fish on Friday, Lent is a time of repentance and turning from sin, an increased awareness of our need for a Savior, and contemplating all that our Lord went through in order that we might be saved from sin, death and the devil.

This evening, our readings move from Genesis 3 (where human beings fell into sin and death became a part of life) to Ecclesiastes (where “The Teacher” gives practical advice for living under the shadow of the reality of death) to Revelation 12 (which answers the question about why there is so much suffering here on earth) and ending up at John 11 (where Jesus gives us the only suitable solution for the problem of sin-caused death: resurrection).

In order to remind us of our own mortality, we will be placing ashes on our foreheads. “You are dust, and to dust you shall return,” God tells Adam and Eve after their sin in the Garden of Eden. But we put the ashes on our foreheads in the shape of the cross, reminding us that the death of Jesus on the cross has paid the penalty our sins deserve and that, just as he has been raised from the dead, so shall we. Because of Christ, death, while still tragic, is not final.

God bless your time in worship this evening!

--Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

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Service of the Word

The Prelude

Introduction to Worship

Announcements

(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, 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 First Reading: Genesis 3:8-19

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The First Message: 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 Second 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 Prayers

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

The Second Message: Living with the End in Mind

The Third 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**

Hymn of the Day: Savior, When in Dust to Thee

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The Third Message: Why Do Bad Things Happen?

The Fourth Reading: John 11:17-27

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your

brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

The Offering

The Fourth Message: “Your Brother Will Rise Again.”

Benediction

People: Amen!

The Recessional: In the Cross of Christ I Glory

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The Postlude

† *Service Participants* †

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