

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



March 1st, 2017  
*Ash Wednesday*



# Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church

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www.zlcb.org



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## Welcome to worship!

This evening is one of the most somber and reserved nights in the church year. Ash Wednesday is one of two days where the liturgical color is black (the other being Good Friday). We come together to reflect on who we are. We are sinners. We are mortal. We are dust. Our altar paraments reflect the blackness of our old, sinful, hearts. The cross on our forehead reminds us that we are dust, and to dust we will return.

Our service this evening will be more laid back. We won't have any energetic announcements of joyful hymns. We also begin our fast from the word "Alleluia" tonight. The service will include several periods of silence for reflection and meditation.

All of this is for a purpose. We don't do this very often in our church. Our lives are consumed, as they should be, with the joy that Jesus has risen and because of Him we have eternal life, even now. But tonight, we reflect on who we are as sinners. This is a timely reminder that we must continually fight against the "old man" in us. In Lent, we examine who we are as sinners, which intensifies our joy at who we are in Christ! The blackness of our old heart magnifies the new, pure heart that God creates in us. Focusing on our mortality magnifies the glory of the resurrection of Christ! It may be uncomfortable. It is difficult to look at our sin. But when we see our sin, we are left with nowhere to turn but our Savior.

May God Bless Your Worship!  
Vicar Joshua

Rev. Eric Carlson, Vacancy Pastor  
Office Phone: 412-221-4776

Vicar Joshua Ulm  
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**ZION EQUIPS, EDUCATES, AND ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, SENDING THEM INTO THE WORLD TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.**

Zion Lutheran Church 3197 Washington Pike Bridgeville, PA 15017

*The congregation assembles in silence.*

## 435 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

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**V** The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**C** Amen.

**V** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**C** **to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;**

**V** to herald Your love in the morning,

**C** **Your truth at the close of the day.**

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

*Silence for self-examination.*

**V** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

**C** **The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.**

**C** **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

**V** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

**C** Amen.

**Psalm** *Psalm 51:1–13*

☑ 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 only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.**

☑ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**☑ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the 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 broken rejoice.**

☑ Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

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

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

**☑ Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

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

**☑ Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
And to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning  
Is now, and will be forever. Amen**

*At this time, the congregation will come forward for the imposition of ashes. The ushers will dismiss each row, forming a single file line up to the steps. Each person will receive the sign of the cross on their forehead, and Vicar will speak the words:*

**V** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*Please return to your seats and meditate in silence. Psalms 51 and 32 in the beginning of your hymnal are suitable for an Ash Wednesday meditation.*

## **Readings from Holy Scripture**

### **Joel 2: 12-19**

"Yet even now," declares the LORD,  
"return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
and rend your hearts and not your garments."  
Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
and he relents over disaster.  
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;  
consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.  
Consecrate the congregation;  
assemble the elders;  
gather the children,  
even nursing infants.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her chamber.  
Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep  
and say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
and make not your heritage a reproach,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should they say among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD became jealous for his land  
and had pity on his people.  
The LORD answered and said to his people,  
"Behold, I am sending to you  
grain, wine, and oil,  
and you will be satisfied;  
and I will no more make you  
a reproach among the nations.

*Silence for reflection.*

## **2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore 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.

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

*Silence for reflection.*

## **Matthew 6:1-6,16-21**

[Jesus said:] "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

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

"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. 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.

[Jesus said:] "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*Silence for reflection.*

### Responsory LSB 255

- ☑ Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
- ☑ **Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**
- ☑ You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.
- ☑ **Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**
- ☑ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- ☑ **Into Your hands I commend my spirit.**

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### 440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now LSB 440

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### Sermon

## Prayer

✓ Hear my prayer, O Lord;

☐ **listen to my cry.**

✓ Keep me as the apple of Your eye;

☐ **hide me in the shadow of Your wings.**

✓ In righteousness I shall see You;

☐ **when I awake Your presence will give me joy.**

✓ Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

☐ **Amen.**

✓ O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

☐ **Amen.**

✓ Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

☐ **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer *LSB 257*

✓ Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

☐ **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.**



## **Nunc Dimittis** *LSB 258*

- ☑ Guide us waking, O Lord,  
and guard us sleeping  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep we may rest in peace.
- ☑ **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;  
Your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:  
a light to reveal You to the nations  
and the glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen.  
Guide us waking, O Lord,  
and guard us sleeping  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

## **Benediction** *LSB 259*

- ☑ The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.
- ☑ **Amen.**

### **Acknowledgments**

Compline from Lutheran Service Book  
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# Upcoming Middle School Youth Group Event



**Black**

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**Light**

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**Night**

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**When?** March 30  
**Where?** Basement of Zion Lutheran Church  
**Who?** Anyone in 6-8th Grade  
**Time?** 8-10pm  
**Address?** 3197 Washington Pike, Bridgeville  
**Food?** Pizza!  
**Cost?** \$0

Wear something  
White or Neon

younglife  
**wyldlife**

