



ASH WEDNESDAY
Muddy Creek Lutheran Church
February 22, 2023



(* = Congregation stands as able)

Welcome and Prelude: *O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall*.....J. S. Bach

*Hymn: “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”#609

*Greeting: P: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

*Prayer of the Day

P: 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. C: **Amen.**

Choir Anthem: “*God So Loved The World*”L. Larson

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. L: The word of the Lord C: **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 51:1– 17 (Read responsively, congregation responses are in bold)

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

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

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

**⁴Against 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.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

^{20b}We 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. ^{6a}As 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!

L: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 **C: 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." L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Hymn: "Savior When in Dust to You".....#601

Exhortation for the Beginning of Lent

*P: 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.

I invite you, therefore, to return to the Lord our God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Confession of Sin and Forgiveness (*sit*)

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.

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

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we reconciled to God; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Receiving of Ashes *(Those who desire to receive ashes please come forward)*

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. And remember that you are God’s, and to God you shall return.”

*P: 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.

*Peace: P: The peace of the Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Holy Communion

*Words of Institution

*Lord’s Prayer

Distribution of Communion

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Blessing **C: Amen**

*Hymn: “All Praise to Thee, My God, this Night”.....#565

*Dismissal: P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Welcome to everyone, especially all visitors and guests! If you are visiting today, it would be really appreciated if you would fill out the yellow card in your pew and put it in the offering plate or give it to the pastor. Welcome!

Everyone is Invited to Have Communion Today! As you come forward for communion today, please take either an empty glass or a pre-filled glass of grape juice from the tray held by the ushers. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar where you will be served bread, and then given wine from the pouring chalice. If you have chosen to bring one of the pre-filled glasses of grape juice to the altar, the wine server will simply say the words of distribution to you as you partake. You may stay at the altar rail as long as you wish. When ready, you are asked to return to your seats by the outside aisle. If you prefer to have communion in your pew, please let an usher know.

Offering may be placed in the wooden box on any of the entry tables.

Lenten Services for 2023

The theme this year for our Lutheran Cluster Lenten Services is “Turning Toward God’s Abundance”. All services are at 7 p.m., and they will also be available online. The offering will go to the conference Disaster Relief Mission Trip to Houston, Texas, April 16-22. (Checks may be made out to North Lancaster Conference Dean’s Fund).

Wed. March 1, 7 p.m.: Pastor Jim Goodyear will be preaching at Faith United, Denver. Theme: Faithfulness – Luke 15:11-23 (The Temptation of Jesus). Faith United will also stream the service on their YouTube channel ([youtube.com, faithunitedevangelicalluth3864](https://youtube.com/faithunitedevangelicalluth3864)).

Wed. March 8, 7 p.m.: Pastor Marissa Becklin will be preaching at St. Paul’s, Adamstown. Theme: Mercy – Luke 13:31-35 (Lament over Jerusalem). St. Paul’s will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - St. Paul’s Lutheran, Adamstown, PA).

Wed. March 15, 7 p.m.: Pastor Peter Schwabe-Fry will be preaching at Bergstrasse, Ephrata. Theme: Compassion – Luke 13:1-9 (The Barren Fig Tree). Bergstrasse will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - Bergstrasse Lutheran Church).

Wed. March 22, 7 p.m.: Pastor Scott Brubaker will be preaching at Muddy Creek, Denver. Theme: Forgiveness – Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (The Prodigal Son). We will also stream the service on our YouTube channel ([youtube.com, muddycreeklutherande4004](https://youtube.com/muddycreeklutherande4004)).

Wed. March 29, 7 p.m.: Pastor Sandy Gideon will be preaching at Mellingers, Schoeneck. Theme: Love – John 12:1-8 (Mary Anoints Jesus). Mellingers will also stream the service on their Facebook page (Facebook - Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church).

Thurs. May 18, 7 p.m., Ascension Day: Pastor Tim Craven will be preaching at Swamp, Reinholds for the Cluster Ascension Service.