



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

Ash Wednesday

Service of the Word

February 22, 2023

This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

*NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshipers' response, and *' means please stand as able.*

FOR THOSE WORSHIPPING FROM HOME: *You can also set out a bowl of water to be used instead of ashes, or simply make the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads without water.*

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME/MINISTRY MOMENT

The season of Lent begins with the imposition of ashes on our foreheads, an acknowledgement of our human finiteness and mortality. The tradition of Ash Wednesday remind us that no matter who we think we are... "you are dust and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19) Beginning the season of Lent is this way helps us stay in touch with the real human condition we all share.

*Lent is a time in which Christians are called to stop whatever we are doing, no matter how important it might be, and enter more intentionally into the spiritual disciplines of **prayer, fasting, self-examination and repentance**. These disciplines are meant turn our hearts and lives to God, to gain a better understanding of what it means to live in a right relationship with God...and all whom God has made. Today we begin this 40-day journey together, leaning into the goodness of our God.*

GATHERING

* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God sets the prisoners free, **And lifts those who are bowed down.**

L: God watches over the stranger, **And upholds those in need.**

L: God reigns in justice forever. **Thanks be to God!**¹

* P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ , the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

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

* PRAYER OF THE DAY Let us pray. Ever-wise God, **You call us to be like children, humble and reliant on you for all our needs. Turn us from seeking after greatness for ourselves, that we might be of love and service to others. Amen!**¹

GROWING

Today's reading reminds us once again how God's ways are surprisingly different from the ways of the world. While Jesus' disciples are focused on greatness and power, Jesus lifts up the value of the most vulnerable whom they pass daily, because they are the unseen. And yet, Jesus makes it clear the all are seen and welcomed by him. We hear Jesus' very stern warning about being stumbling

blocks to the vulnerable around us. THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Matthew the 18th chapter **Glory to you, O Lord**

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²He called a child, whom he put among them, ³and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. ⁶If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes! ⁸If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the hell of fire." The Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you O Christ.

CONCERNING PRAYER *This 40-day journey offers us the gift of time with God, to be more intentional about making time to talk with God, praising, seeking guidance, and sharing the needs of the world.* Jesus, you taught us to pray with these words: **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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

CONCERNING FASTING/TREASURES *During this season we are urged to be more mindful of the abundance of food and treasures in our lives, while also seeing and responding to the reality of how many people live without enough.* Generous God, **we give thanks for all you have given us. We humbly acknowledge how there is room in our lives for being more generous in sharing what we have with those who are living without the necessities and niceties we take for granted. Help us see what we can share with others, as a sign of our desire to love more like you. Amen.**

CONCERNING OUR SINFULNESS *Our Lenten journey involves naming the ways we fall short of how God has created us, and seeking God's forgiveness. Join in reading verses of Psalm 51* ¹Have mercy on me, O God, **according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Mary Eide

Blue #777 HYMN OF THE DAY "Give Me Jesus" vs. 1-3 Page 4

PRAYER BEFORE IMPOSITION OF ASHES 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 given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. If worshiping from home, use your finger to make the sign of the cross on one another's forehead using these words:

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

PRAYER AFTER ASHES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED Accomplish in us, O God, **the work of your salvation, we may show forth your glory in the world. By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection. Amen.**

GIVING

The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Giving to support God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill can be mailed to (Mailing address: 207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739 – OR – as a 'bill pay' on your bank account – OR – go to <https://www.sothem.org/give> to make a one time or reoccurring donation. Setting up an account with GivePlus offers you control over the amount & timing of your giving.

* OFFERING PRAYER All that we have is yours, O God. **Keep us ever mindful that, like children, we are fully reliant on you for all that we need. These gifts we offer are but a small portion of what you have first given us. Accept them, and bless them for your work of caring for all people. Amen.¹**

* PRAYERS AND PETITIONS (L: Merciful God, **All: You hear our prayer.**)

* LENTEN LITANY

We begin tonight our journey to the cross. **We think we want to follow Jesus.** But we do not understand where he is going. **We want to be the greatest in his glorious reign.** But we are told that we must be the least. **Like children, humble and wholly dependent,** Those who had the lowest value in society. **Can we give up all we think we deserve?** Can we put our entire trust in Jesus? **Can we follow where Jesus leads us?** We will try, and hope we do not stumble. **God, watch over and protect us on our way.**

* ANNOUNCEMENTS/BLESSING You are what God made you to be: holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing to others, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

* DISMISSAL Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. **Thanks be to God.**

* **POSTLUDE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRIDAY:	10am-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY:	8:45am	- Sunday School
	10:00am	- Worship
	11:00am	- Fellowship
	1:30-3:30pm	- Grief Share at Trinity United Methodist Church
MONDAY	6:00pm	- New Council Member Training
	6:30pm	- Church Council Meeting
	7pm	- AA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please contact Pastor Mary or sign up to share your favorite Bible verse and why it is important to you during our Wednesday Midweek service.

6pm SOUP SUPPERS begin THIS WEDNESDAY, followed by 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship. Sign up to help with the weekly soup suppers by coming into church or contacting us at meide@luthersem.edu

Our church is volunteering at **The Community Table** on Sunday afternoon **March 26th**. Sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Place. Questions? Contact Holly Sweeney 715-456-6960. The Community Table is 320 Putnam Street in Eau Claire. Please park in the back of the building.

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Give Me Jesus

Sing
verses 1-
3



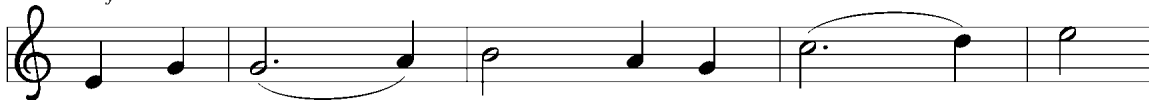
1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

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in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual