



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

Ash Wednesday

Service of Prayer

March 2, 2022

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

There is great joy in gathering with one another to lift up praise and thanksgiving to God. Measures have been put in place to provide a safe environment for us to gather in church to worship, and we ask that you do your part in this endeavor, as well.

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

FOR THOSE WORSHIPING 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 MESSAGES

GATHERING

* P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY God of new beginnings, **where we see the ashes of our failure, you see the stardust of a fresh start. Turn us toward each other and lead us into quiet spaces when the noise of the street corner drowns out your voice. Beyond life, beyond death, show us how to rest in you. Amen.**

“You Are Here’ Prayer of the Day for Ash Wednesday” © 2021 by Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission of Barn Geese Worship.

GROWING

Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save. A reading from the Prophet Joel, chapter 2

¹Blow 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—²a 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.

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

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between 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?'" The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks of certain acts of piety or devotion such as: almsgiving (also known as giving to those in need), prayer, and fasting, however he emphasizes that such spiritual devotions must NOT be done in a manner just so all can see what you are doing.

* P: The Gospel for Ash Wednesday is from the 6th Chapter of Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord CONCERNING ALMSGIVING**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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. "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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

ALL: From dust you came and to dust you will return

CONCERNING PRAYER

"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. 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.

ALL: From dust you came and to dust you will return

CONCERNING FASTING

"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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

ALL: From dust you came and to dust you will return

CONCERNING TREASURES

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

ALL: From dust you came and to dust you will return

MESSAGE

Green #315 HYMN OF THE DAY "Jesus the very thought of you"

Pastor Mary Eide

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

Public Domain

1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;

but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

INVITATION TO LENT

* CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us acknowledge our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(Pause)* Most holy and merciful God, we confess 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.

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

We admit how we have shut our ears to your whispered reminders to be in a relationship with you, talking with you, and leaning on your wisdom as we go through our day.

Wash me through and through and cleanse me from my sin.

We confess our past unfaithfulness and how we have allowed pride, envy, double standards, and indifference to infect our lives and our society. These failings have led us to see past others or value them less because they are not like us. We have neglected the needs of fellow humans, allowing injustice and cruelty to become a part of who we are in the world.

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

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter. Marking our foreheads with dust, or water, we acknowledge that we all die and return to the earth. At the same time, the mark traces the life-giving cross that was indelibly placed 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."

[ELCA Worship » Blog Archive Worship in the Home: Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021 - ELCA Worship - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

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. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:

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

*NOTE: 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 – by going on our website (www.sothem.org) to **GIVE** tab to make a one time or reoccurring donation. Setting up an account with GivePlus is easy!*

* OFFERING PRAYER Lord Jesus, **we experience your abundance for our daily lives. We give back to you in gratitude, that our lives may shine a light on your goodness. Amen.**

* LENTEN PRAYER Dear God of our whole selves, As we journey through this season of Lent, **teach us how to give**, so that we can joyfully respond when you call us to serve. **Teach us how to pray**, so that we can be closer to you in all that we do throughout the day. **Teach us how to let go**, so nothing can stand in the way of our connection with you. **Teach us how to prepare**, so we can be ready to receive your love, wisdom, and blessing. **Help us to remember that in all ways we belong to you. Amen.**

* LORD'S PRAYERS **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**

* 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.**

* GREEN #99 SENDING HYMN "O Lord, throughout These 40 Days" vs. 1-2, 4 Page 5

* 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	- Holy Communion Worship

 PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

Menomonie United Methodist Church is hosting a community-wide prayer vigil **6:30pm Thur., 3/10th**. The church is located at 2703 Bongey Drive, Menomonie WI (Close to River Heights Elementary School)

The Elk Mound Community Food Pantry is looking for some donations: Canned Carrots, Stewed Tomatoes, Soups (NOT tomato or cream of mushroom), Fruit cocktail, Chicken and Beef Broth, Ramen, Stuffing, Suddenly Salad, Juices, Meat, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Soap. These Items can be dropped off during Food Pantry Hours (Tues, 4-6p, Fri 10a-12P), on Sunday Mornings, or by calling at 715-879-5115

GIVE OF YOUR TREASURE OF TIME...TO FEED THE HUNGRY Sunday, **April 3rd** our congregation will be making the **Community Table** meal in Eau Claire. We need 5-6 people at both shifts (1-3pm and 3-5pm) Sign up sheet is in the Gathering Place at church (large bulletin board)

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O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

SING Vs. 1-2, 40

1 O Lord, through-out these for-ty days you prayed and kept the fast;
 2 You strove with Sa-tan, and you won; your faith-ful-ness en-dured;
 3 Though parched and hun-gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a-bove;
 4 Be with us through this sea-son, Lord, and all our earth-ly days,

in-spire re-pen-tance for our sin, and free us from our past.
 lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's e-ter-nal word.
 so teach us to de-ny our-selves that we may know God's love.
 that when the fi-nal Eas-ter dawns, we join in heav-en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930
 Music: CAITHNESS, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1635

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