

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2015

12:00 & 7:15 p.m.

Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Mills IA

We begin our service this evening with solemn confession of our sins and by receiving the mark of the cross on our foreheads. The ashes suggest God's condemnation of sin. They are a symbol of our weakness and dependence upon God for mercy and hope. The Cross is the sign of our salvation in Christ Jesus. The beginning of the Lenten season is a time to renew our commitment to live according to God's word.

We gather in silence.

Confession and Ashes

Hymn "Change My Heart, O God" Red Book #801

Invitation to Lent

Confession of Sin

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

Congregation may be seated. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

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.**

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 us, O God.

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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than we.

We confess to you, God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

We confess to you, God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

We confess to you, God.

For the wrongs we have done, for our apathy to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

Accept our repentance, God

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

Accept our repentance, God.

Restore us and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, for your mercy is great. Amen

The Imposition of Ashes Procession

Those who desire to receive ashes please come forward and kneel or stand at the rail. Ashes are applied to the forehead with the words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." During the imposition of ashes the congregation may meditate on Psalm 90. This Psalm may be found on page 605 in the pew Bible.

After those who desire ashes have received them, you may be seated and the minister continues.

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

That we may show forth you glory in the world.

By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit that those things may please him, which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God's Word

Hymn "O Jesus, I Have Promised" Red Book #810

Prayer of the Day

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.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 58:1-2
Psalm 51:1-17

*Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon *More said than done*

Hymn "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" Red Book #325

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit And born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers

Meal

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, **You provide us with every gift of creation, and you quench our thirst with living water. Receive these tokens of your goodness to us. May our lives be bread for the hungry and streams in the wilderness, signs of the abundance of your grace in Jesus Christ. Amen**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Distribution

Hymns at the distribution Red Book #483 and #638

Communion will be served in a continuous manner. Ushers will direct you from both sides down the center aisle. You receive the bread at the center station and then walk to the side where you will receive the wine or grape juice. All who believe in the real presence of Jesus in the sacrament are welcome at the table.

Blessing and Prayer

Benediction

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Serving this Evening
Rev. Peter Soli – Pastor
Rev. Melinda McCluskey - Pastor
Ruth Sheldon – Organist