

THE BEATITUDES

Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2025

Theme: Attitude Check

As We Gather

On this day the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection and devotion. Our attention is especially directed to the holy, innocent sufferings and death of our Savior, Jesus. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently in His Word and draws from it life and hope. Since the beginning of its observance in the seventh century, it has been called Ash Wednesday, based on the practice of placing ashes on the forehead in the sign of a cross as these words are spoken, “From dust you are and unto dust you shall return.” These words drawn from Genesis 3:19 are a symbol of our repentance, mortality, and need for a Savior. Our service today includes the opportunity for worshipers to receive the imposition of the ashen cross on their forehead. For private meditation during this time you may wish to read Psalm 32, 51, or 90 in the front portion of the pew hymnal.

The Beatitudes: The Sermon on the Mount is the longest message recorded in the gospels. Jesus’ message brings to us a great deal of insight into our role in the Kingdom of Heaven, and He starts it all with the “Beatitudes.” I must admit at one time, the Beatitudes sounded to me, “Today, life is hard. But one day soon, I will bless you!” yet I have discovered that these sayings are powerful when viewed through a new lens. It’s a prescription on how we are to live. This Lent, we will study the Beatitudes as a way to live our lives as “be” attitudes.

If you wish to join us at the Lord’s Table, please read this Communion information. If you share our beliefs regarding the Lord’s Supper, we welcome you to our altar.

- + I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, Satan and death.
- + I believe that Christ is really present in the Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I receive His true Body and Blood.
- + I resolve to dedicate my life to my Lord and Savior in His Body, the Church, by regular worship and devoted Christian service and living.

Opening Hymn 140

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

1. Jesus, I will ponder now, on Thy holy Passion;
With Thy Spirit me endow, for such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith, may the image cherish,
Of Thy suff’ring, pain, and death, that I may not perish.
2. Make me see Thy great distress, anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness, and Thy crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound Thee,
How for man Thou diedst, O God, Who with thorns had crowned Thee.
3. Yet, O Lord, not thus alone, make me see Thy Passion,
But its cause to me make known, and its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin, wrought Thy deep affliction;
This indeed the cause hath been, of Thy crucifixion.

Confession and Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: “Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” God made Adam, man of dust, in His image.

C: Who are we, Lord, that You are mindful of us and care for us? You have made us little less than Yourself, crowning us with glory and honor.

P: “Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” We deserve God’s curse for we have sinned.

C: You turn us back to dust, Lord. Before the day we die, we come to You with ashes upon our lives, the mark of the curse. We turn from our sin to face You, Lord. Forgive us and restore us, for Jesus’ sake, and speak to us another word besides “ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”

P: Assembled to hear God’s Word and receive His blessed Son, we admit that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful nature. Therefore, we take refuge in God’s infinite mercy, seeking and imploring His grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, be merciful to us.

C: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to life everlasting.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Children’s Message - 7:00pm

Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 1:9-18

Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord’s house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, “Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.” As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.” “Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.” Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.” She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

Hymn

Blest Are They - Haas

Verse 1:

Blest are they, the poor in spirit,
Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow,
They shall be consoled.

Refrain:

Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-10

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Hymn of the Day 175

When I Survey the Wonderous Cross

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
3. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Sermon

Matthew 5:3

Beatitude 1:

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit, for Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven
Rev. Randall J. Schlak

Offering - 7:00pm

(1:00pm offering will be received at the door.)

At this time, please take a moment to record your attendance here with us today.
Instructions are on the back page.

Offertory

7:00pm

Be Thou My Vision - Knoedler
Chancel Choir

Prayer of the Church

Lord’s Prayer

P: 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;

C: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Imposition of Ashes and Distribution of the Lord’s Supper

For a more meaningful experience, we are combining the imposition of ashes and the Lord’s Supper at the communion rail. First, an elder will place an ashen cross on your forehead while speaking the words, “Dust you are and to dust you shall return.” Immediately following the imposition of ashes, the pastors and other elders will distribute communion. **If you do not wish to receive ashes or communion, at the appropriate time, place your hands crossed at your chest.**

Communion wine is dark in color, grape juice is light. It is in the individual cup trays in the glass cups allowing for each member to grab their own wine cup. **If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer or desire the common cup, at the appropriate time, please raise your pointer finger.**

Sung During Imposition of Ashes and Communion

1:00pm

He Was Wounded - Courtney
Steve SeGraves, Vocalist

7:00pm

Give Me Jesus - Manor
Chancel Choir

Benediction

P: The Lord God formed the man of the dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Genesis 2:7)

C: Dust we are and unto dust we shall return. (Genesis 3:19)

P: Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:49) The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn 158

Glory Be To Jesus

1. Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood from His sacred veins!
2. Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, infinitely kind!
3. Blest through endless ages be the precious stream
Which from endless torments did the world redeem!

As is the tradition, the palms were burned from previous Palm Sunday services and the resulting ashes are being used in today's services.

Thanks and appreciation to:

The Elders for assisting with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, and Steve SeGraves and the Chancel Choir for providing special music at today's services.

Pianist/Organist

Rick Helderop

Elders Assisting with Communion/Ashes

Brad Baldner, Ron Curcio, David Mammel, Rick Russ

Audio/Video Operators

7:00pm - Dave Hamada

Our Lenten Meal Prepared By

Lunch: 2024 Advent Team

Dinner: Mission Trip Team

Altar Guild

Barb Grattan, Karen Rose, Sara Amos, Jennifer Dobring,
Robin Swift, Erin Springer, Carole Cirton, Polly Millichamp,
Richelle Pedersen, Liz Pedersen, Tracey Fish

Ushers

1:00pm - Bob Stewart

7:00pm - Jim Grove, *Captain*; Jim Endress, Peter Pridmore,
Cindy Grove, David Hamada, Ryan Jones, Eric Stein

Please take a moment to record your attendance here with us today.

There are two simple ways to do this:

1. Scan the QR code and fill out the online attendance form.
2. Use the worship card found in your pew. You may drop it in the offering plate or simply leave it in your pew after you fill it out.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

THE BEATITUDES - MATTHEW 5:3-12

March 12th - Matthew 5:4

Those who Mourn

March 19th - Matthew 5:5

The Meek

March 26th - Matthew 5:6

The Hungry and Thirsty

April 2nd - Matthew 5:7

The Merciful

April 9th - Matthew 5:8

Clean of Heart

1:00pm - Chapel; 7:00pm - Sanctuary

Each worship service is preceded by a meal:

Lunch 12:00pm; Dinner 6:00pm

(Confirmands 5:30pm)

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday, April 17th

1:00pm - Chapel; 7:00pm - Sanctuary

Holy Communion at Both Services

Good Friday, April 18th

1:00pm and 7:00pm - Sanctuary

Easter Eve, April 19th

5:00pm - Sanctuary

Easter Sunday Services, April 20th

7:30am with Holy Communion;

9:00am and 10:30am

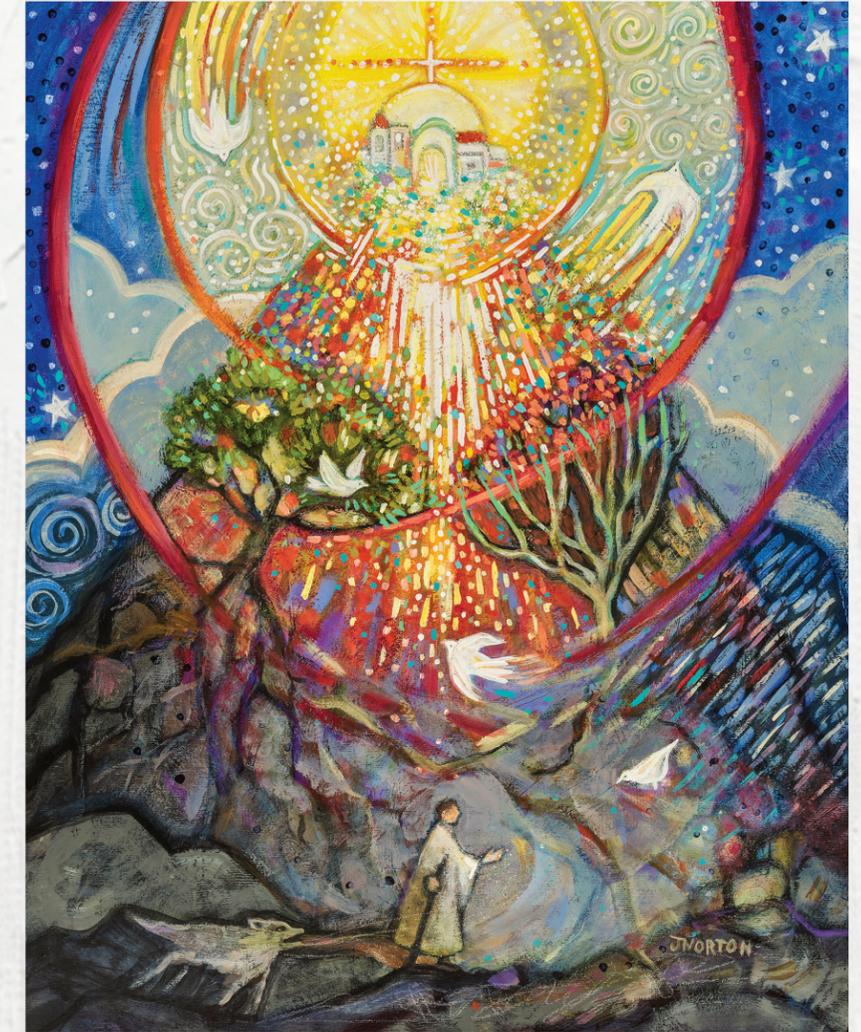
Easter Egg Hunt to follow Easter Sunday

10:30am Service

Bring your Easter Basket!!

***ALL 7:00PM LENTEN SERVICES AND THE
10:30AM EASTER SERVICE WILL BE
LIVESTREAMED***

ATTITUDE CHECK



BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 5, 2025

1:00pm/7:00pm

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

1800 WEST MAPLE

BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

Rev. Randall J. Schlak, Senior Pastor
Rev. James Greenwalt, Assistant Pastor