

The Red Letters of Jesus

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Theme: Building on Christ

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 Red Letter Words of Jesus: What if we stopped reading about Jesus and stated putting His red letter words into practice? You may have noticed that in many Bibles the words Jesus speaks are in red. What if by putting the words of Jesus into practice, we discover who He is and who He has made us to be? You see, we are to be a reflection of Jesus in this world. How are we doing with that? What about Christianity as a whole? This Lent we will be diving into these ideas starting today, Ash Wednesday, with “Building on Christ”. Next week, February 21: “Being with Christ”; continuing on February 28: “Forgiving with Christ (even forgiving ourselves)”; March 6: “Serving Christ”; March 13: “Generosity (The Law of Generosity)”; and finally on March 20: “Going for Christ”. Maundy Thursday, on March 28, will be “Dining with Christ” and Good Friday, March 29 is “Dwelling with Christ.”

“If you love me, keep my commands.” (John 14:15)

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: “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

More Red Letters of Jesus

P: Jesus answered,

C: “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

P: Jesus said to him,

C: “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

P: As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth.

C: “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

P: “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower.

C: Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?

P: For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it,

C: everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying,

P: ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:24-27

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Hymn of the Day

The Wise Man and the Foolish Man

1. The wise man built his house upon a rock,
The wise man built his house upon a rock,
The wise man built his house upon a rock,
And the rains came tumbling down.
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
And the house on the rock stood fast.

2. The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
And the rains came tumbling down.
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
And the house on the sand went smash.

3. So build your Life on the Lord Jesus Christ,
So build your Life on the Lord Jesus Christ,
So build your Life on the Lord Jesus Christ,
And the blessings will come down.
The blessings come down as the prayers go up,
The blessings come down as the prayers go up,
The blessings come down as the prayers go up,
So build your Life on the Lord.

Sermon

Matthew 7:24-27

“The Red Letters of Jesus: “The Wise Man Built...”

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

Calvary’s Love – arr. Hayes

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

How Beautiful – Paris

Steve SeGraves, vocalist

7:00pm

Calvary’s Love – arr. Hayes

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 & communion, and Steve SeGraves & the Chancel Choir for providing special music at today's services.

Pianist/Organist

Rick Helderop

Ushers

1:00 - Bob Stewart

7:00 - Jim Grove, captain; Jim Endress,

Peter Pridmore, Cindy Grove,

David Hamada, Ryan Jones

Elders Assisting with Communion/Ashes

Paul Held, David Mammel,

Matt Pedersen, Rick Russ

Our Lenten Meal Preparers:

(lunch): Kim Davis

(supper): Mission Trip Team

Audio/Video Operators

7:00 - Bruce Helmke & David Kiehle

The Red Letters of Jesus: Digging Deeper

- Take a moment to compare the two characters of Jesus' parable. What is similar between each? What sets them apart from one another?
- It takes hard work and extra time to dig beneath the surface and build a house on the rock instead of the sand. What are some ways that you prefer the "easy way" in your Christianity? Are there corners that you might cut in your obedience?
- No one likes to think of themselves as "deceived" and having built on sand instead of stone. What are some sandy foundations that you have seen in your own life or in the lives of others?
- Take a moment of honesty and vulnerability. Are there commands of Christ that you do not like or that you find difficult to obey?
- How does the gospel's message that Jesus's perfect obedience and not our disobedience or incomplete obedience will be the firm foundation for all those who have put their faith in Jesus motivate you to be more obedient instead of less?

"If a man wants to be used by God, he cannot spend all of his time with people."

-A. W. Tozer

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 folder found in your pew. *(Take note that one side of the card is for visitors and the other for members.)* Place your finished card in the left-hand sleeve and pass the entire folder to the person next to you.



LENTEN MID-WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

"The Red Letters of Jesus"

Wednesday Worship Services

February 21 - Being with Christ

February 28 - Forgiving with Christ

March 6 - Serving Christ

March 13 - Generosity

March 20 - Going for Christ

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

Each worship service is preceded by a meal:

12:00 noon and 6:00pm (5:30pm confirmands)

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, March 28 - Dining with Christ

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

Holy Communion at both services)

Good Friday, March 29 - Dwelling with Christ

1:00pm and 7:00pm - Sanctuary

Easter Eve, March 30 - 5:00pm

Easter Sunday Services, March 31

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 7pm services & 10:30am Easter Service will be livestreamed*

Building on Christ

THE

RED LETTERS

of Jesus

...then neither do I condemn you
...she did what she could do
...this poor widow has put in more than all the others
...is like the wise man
...therefore go
...come to me, all who are weary

February 14, 2024
1:00 p.m./7:00 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
1800 W. Maple
Birmingham, Michigan 48009

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