

Wednesday, March 6th, 2019

Ash Wednesday

SERMON *on the* MOUNT

Blessed
are
YOU



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A Special Welcome to Our Visitors:

Welcome to St. Michael's Lutheran Church! We are a historic congregation committed to continuing the mission of Jesus Christ in our community. We are very excited to have you worshipping the Lord with us this evening. You are always welcome in our church! Here are a few helpful things to know about St. Michael's:

- Our beautiful and historic church building is over 100 years old. Unfortunately this means that it was not built with restrooms. Restrooms are located in our education building next door.
- A changing table for infants is located in classroom 4 in the education building.
- During our worship service, attendance books will be passed across the pews. Please take a moment to register your presence with us in the book and include your address and phone number so we can follow up with you in the future.
- Our pastor, Rev. Nate Hill, is always willing to meet with you to answer any questions that you might have about our church and beliefs or to be of help in any way that he is able. Please introduce yourself to him this evening. He will be thrilled to meet you!

We hope that you find St. Michael's to be a place where you feel at home as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Sermon on the Mount

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday:

Blessed Are You

Order of Service

Welcome to Worship

Opening Hymn

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

LSB #610 v.1-4

Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me your loving servant be and taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me amid the battle’s strife;
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity point out your chosen way.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

P Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

P Blessed are those who mourn,

C for they shall be comforted.

P Blessed are the meek,

C for they shall inherit the earth.

P Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

C for they shall be satisfied.

P Blessed are the merciful,

C for they shall receive mercy.

P Blessed are the pure in heart,

C for they shall see God.

P Blessed are the peacemakers,

C for they shall be called sons of God.

P Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,

C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

P Blessed are you

C when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil
against you falsely on my account.

Lord Jesus, think on me that, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see and share your joy at last.

Imposition of Ashes

- ☐ These ashes symbolize our mourning for our sins. The sign of the cross symbolizes cleansing and renewal and points to the gift of forgiveness that God gives in Jesus Christ.

(Parishioners come forward to receive a cross of ashes on their forehead.)

Confession and Absolution

- ☐ We are dust, and to dust we shall return. But our God is faithful and just. When we confess our sins, he covers us in his righteousness and gives us new hope.
- ☑ **Most merciful God, dust is our destiny. We are impure. We are at war against you and our fellow human beings in what we say, in what we think, and in what we do. We have even left undone the good things you have commanded us to do. We do not deserve the kingdom of heaven. Out of the depths of your perfect grace, please forgive us for the sins we have committed against you and against one another. Wash us clean and turn our rags into white robes so that we will rise from the dust of ashes to the glory of your grace.**
- ☐ Our merciful heavenly Father sent his Son Jesus, who is righteous, merciful and pure in heart. He is the one who has, by his cross, made peace between evil sinners and a righteous God. Jesus Christ rose from the dust of death to life again so that we are made to live before God in righteousness and purity. It is by his grace that I announce to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- ☑ **Amen.**

Hymn of Response

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

LSB #915 v. 2 & 4

Today your gate is open, and all who enter in
Shall find a Father’s welcome and pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, a present joy be giv’n,
A future grace be promised, a glorious crown in heav’n.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without you when heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, to drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, one ear will hear our prayer.

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12-19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
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;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.
¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”
¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.
¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;

and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:1-10

¹So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.
²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and
“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-11

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Children’s Message

Sermon Hymn *“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

LSB #528
v. 1,3-4,6-7

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner’s ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin; he sets the pris’ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood avails for me.

See all your sins on Jesus laid; the Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off’ring made for ev’ry soul of man.

To God all glory, praise and love be now and ever giv’n
By saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heav’n.

Sermon

Rev. Nate Hill

Offering

Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Lord, because of your mercy,

C **Blessed are we.**

Lord’s Prayer

C **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
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

P The God of all grace who became meek for us, bless you with all that is good on earth and with all the riches of heaven. Rejoice and be glad! Amen.

Closing Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”

LSB #644 v.1, 3-5

The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heav’n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace
That we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.