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A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS:

Welcome to Saint 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 Saint Michael's:

- Our beautiful and historic church building was built in 1906. 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 Saint Michael's to be a place where you feel at home as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

MISSION STATEMENT:

Saint Michael's Lutheran Church exists to worship God, love one another, and serve all people according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In View of God's Mercy: A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday:
Mercy in Ashes

ORDER OF SERVICE

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:13

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Return to the Lord your God.

C Christ crucified, I come.

P Behold his miracle of mercy.

C Christ crucified, I come.

P Receive his gift of grace.

C Christ crucified, I come.

P Abide in his steadfast love.

C Christ crucified, I come.

P Rest in his unfailing faithfulness.

C Christ crucified, I come.

Hymn

“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”

LSB #560

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The pastor receives ashes first, followed by the congregation. Using the right thumb, the pastor places the ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying:

“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his or her place in silence.

Confession and Forgiveness

P “Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments” (Joel 2:12-13). As our Lord summons us to return to him with repentant hearts, we confess our sins and sorrow over them.

C Almighty God, we are unclean before you. We are marred and marked by the filth of sin. We have turned away from you by disobeying your commandments. We have rebelled against you by seeking our own way rather than following your will. Forgive us.

P We cry out to you for mercy!

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

P Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you to remove the stain of your sin. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sin and renews a right spirit within you. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and everlasting God, as we begin our Lenten pilgrimage, we do so in a spirit of repentance. We are sinful and depend completely upon your mercy. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit so that we might follow you in paths of righteousness. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12-18

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 John 1:8-9

⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:16–18

¹⁶And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

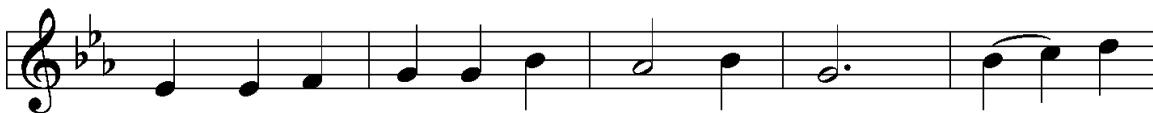
Hymn

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

LSB #915

Sermon

Offertory



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Offering *(Please sign the attendance books as they are passed)* Ushers

*If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online,
you may do so at www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give*



Prayers

- P** Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as sinners who require your cleansing.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
- C Lord, grant me your grace both to will and to do what pleases you.**
- P** All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who cleanses us from all unrighteousness.
- C Amen.**

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 May the merciful God, who is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, empower you to live according to his good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

C **Amen.**

Hymn

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

LSB #704