

Wednesday, February 22nd 2023

Ash Wednesday



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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.

Ash Wednesday:

Sitting in Dust and Ashes

As We Gather

Lent begins with ashes. The wearing of ashes on our forehead may seem like an unusual tradition, but it is rich with meaning. From the earliest days, God's children have repented before Him in sackcloth and ashes, a visual reflection of their hearts turning to Him for forgiveness and restoration. Fixing our eyes on Jesus during the forty-day season of Lent, we journey with Him to Calvary's cross where, enduring the "ashes" of our sins and the penalty they deserve, He grants to us the beauty of His forgiveness, full and free. Let us be renewed in our hearts and minds this day as we gather in the Lord's house. His Word will show us our great need for His saving love and deliver to us the treasures He has promised.

+PREPARATION+

Hymn

"Christ, the Life of All the Living"

LSB #420 v. 1-4

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5

P For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,

C so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

P But He was wounded for our transgressions;

C He was crushed for our iniquities;

P upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

C and with His stripes we are healed.

Confession and Absolution

Based on Philippians 2:1-11

P Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:

C Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.

- P** You endured the dust and the ashes, the nails, and the spear. By Your suffering and death, You bore in Your body the punishment our deeds deserve.
- C** **Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us –**
- P** to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.
- C** **With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who endured the “ashes” of Calvary’s cross so that we are given remission of all our sins, full and free. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

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.

Hymn

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

LSB #419

+WORD+

Kyrie

- P** Lord, have mercy.
- C** **Christ, have mercy.**
- P** Lord, have mercy.

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You exchanged the ashes of our sin for the beauty of Your holiness when You died and rose again for us.

C Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Children's Sermon

Old Testament Reading

Job 30:11-19

¹¹Because God has loosed my cord and humbled me,
they have cast off restraint in my presence.

¹²On my right hand the rabble rise;
they push away my feet;
they cast up against me their ways of destruction.

¹³They break up my path;
they promote my calamity;
they need no one to help them.

¹⁴As through a wide breach they come;
amid the crash they roll on.

¹⁵Terrors are turned upon me;
my honor is pursued as by the wind,
and my prosperity has passed away like a cloud.

¹⁶“And now my soul is poured out within me;
days of affliction have taken hold of me.

¹⁷The night racks my bones,
and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest.

¹⁸With great force my garment is disfigured;
it binds me about like the collar of my tunic.

¹⁹God has cast me into the mire,
and I have become like dust and ashes.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

- P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;
C **according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**
P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
C **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**
P Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,
C **so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**
P Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C **and renew a right spirit within me.**
P Cast me not away from Your presence,
C **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**
P Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16 – 6:2

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For He says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
 and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:20–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁰Then He began to denounce the cities where most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. ²¹“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²²But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was Your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. ²⁸Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn

“Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”

LSB #421


Sermon

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth

and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life  of the world to come. Amen.**

Offertory



C 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** Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.
- C** **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation brings us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**
- P** Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,
- C** **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**

- P** Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who come to You in repentance and faith.
- C** **Create in us clean hearts to receive from You the promised treasures of Your mercy and forgiveness.**
- P** Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need.
- C** **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. 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** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

LSB #420 v. 5-7

