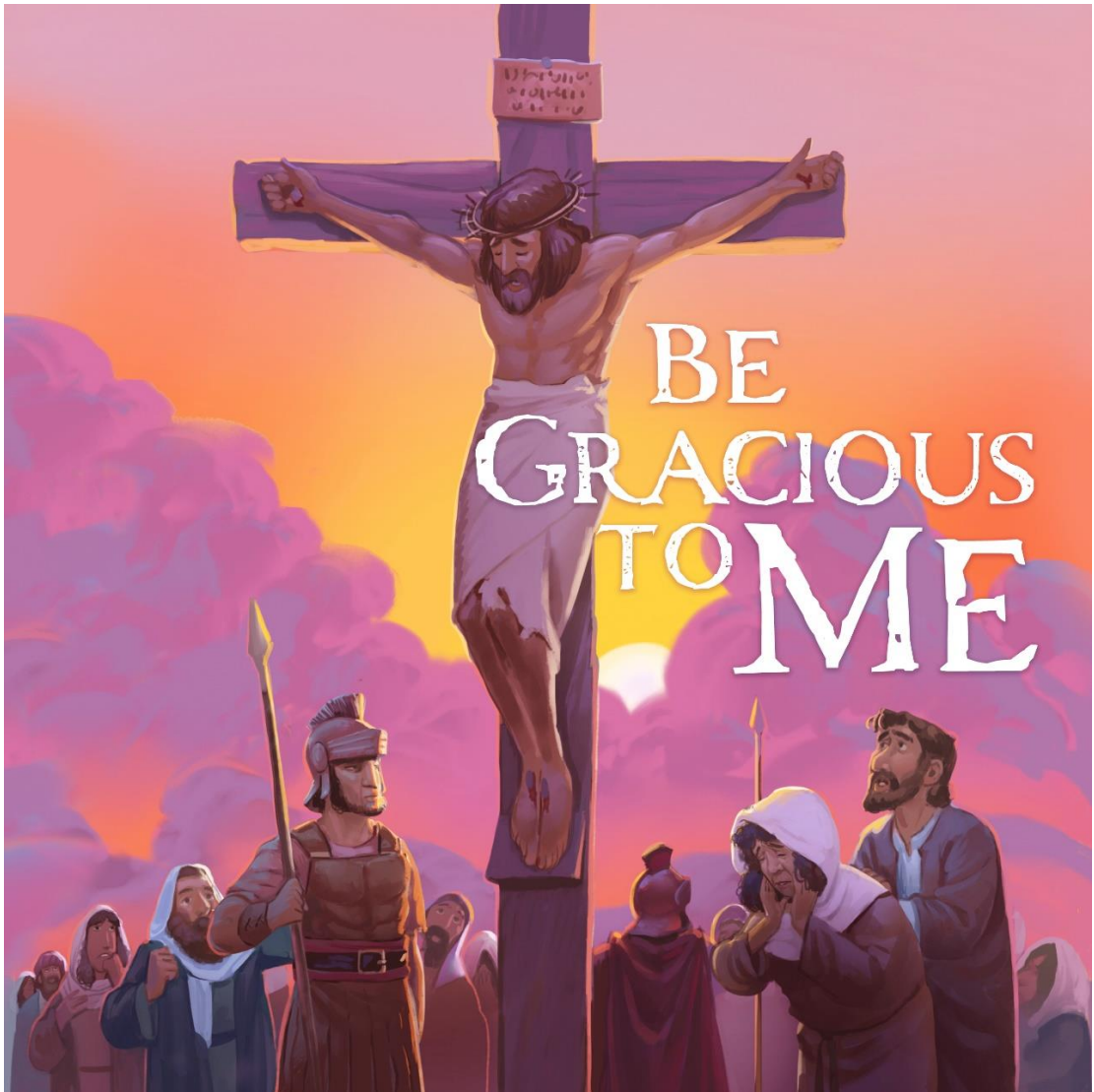


Wednesday, February 14th 2024

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:

Mutual Consideration

As We Gather

How close is your relationship with Jesus? According to Paul, “All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death,” and “if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His” (Romans 6:3, 5). Your Baptism has brought you so close to Jesus that you share death, life, and all things with Him. Therefore, when David said of Jesus in Psalm 41:1, “Blessed is the one who considers the poor,” he was also speaking of you. Your blessed Lord Jesus considers you—a poor, miserable sinner—and He will surely deliver you in the day of trouble so that you, too, will be “called blessed in the land” (Psalm 41:2).

+IMPOSITION OF ASHES+

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Silence for reflection

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The pastor places 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.

P Almighty God, we beseech You to grant us true repentance and Your Holy Spirit, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy and that at the last we may come to Your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Go in peace. You are free.

C Thanks be to God!

Hymn

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

LSB #419

+PREPARATION+

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9

P I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.

C Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

P The Lord is gracious and merciful,

C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P The Lord is good to all,

C and His mercy is over all that He has made.

Confession and Absolution

Based on Philippians 2:1-11

P Let us confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins in thought, word, and deed with which I have offended You. By nature, I am sinful and unclean. Time and again I have not honored Your name or walked in Your ways. Although I justly deserve Your punishment in time and for eternity, I am truly sorry for my transgressions and sincerely repent of them. In Your great mercy

and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, forgive me all my sins, and by the directing of the Holy Spirit, lead me to walk in paths of blessedness.

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+WORD+

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

O Lord, You call Your straying people to return to You in repentance and contrition, and You graciously have promised forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Grant that, forgiven and free, we may live each day in joyful hope as Your well-loved children; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Hymn Introduction

P Each week in Lent, we will sing a portion of the hymn “My Song Is Love Unknown” and reflect on its devotional meaning. The first stanza of the hymn characterizes the sacrifice of Christ to pay the price of our sins as an expression of “love unknown”—a love that we as humans can hardly comprehend. The poetic words of author Samuel Crossman are very personal. Each of us sings “my song” as we respond to the sacrifice of Jesus, who for us as His individual sons and daughters, took on “frail flesh” and died.

1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Series Psalm

Psalm 41:1-2

P May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us.

C May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us.

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him;
the Lord protects him and keeps him alive;
he is called blessed in the land;
You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

C May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us.

^{20b}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. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Joel 2:13b

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give

to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶“And 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.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Hymn

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

LSB #418

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.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people
according to their needs.

For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess
the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend His pilgrim people from
the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to
the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our national church body and for this local congregation, its mission and
its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God
has given us to do; and for the fostering of unity of the Spirit in the bond of
peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their
eating and drinking they receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and the
renewal of life and have a foretaste of the feast to come, let us pray to the
Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father and for all who are involved in ministries of outreach and care, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably; and for the people being governed, that they may contribute to the well-being of society, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who serve in all worthy occupations, professions, arts, and sciences, that God would grant them skill and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities and grant them a sense of value and satisfaction through their vocations, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve, comfort, and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all the faithful in this household of faith and beyond, that the Spirit would lead them to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who are sick, that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, and for all in service vocations of healing and providing safety and care in our communities, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who mourn, that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but will rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

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.

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*



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.

Closing Collect

P Almighty and merciful God, You call Your people to repentance and forgive the sins of all who come to You with penitent and contrite hearts. Grant us the spirit of true repentance to acknowledge our sins and to find in You forgiveness and restoration, wholeness, and peace; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who became poor for us that we might rejoice in the riches of Your gracious kingdom.

C 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

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

LSB #436

