

ASH

WEDNESDAY



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

1764 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville, Texas 77974

361-277-8653

Pastor John Boor

March 1, 2017

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Prelude

Ringing of the Church Bells

Announcements

Opening Hymn WOV #657 *“The Glory of These 40 Days”*

P Gracious Lord, ashes remind us of our human frailty and mortality. You are eternal, but we are limited in our days. Someday we will return to dust and ashes. You remind us of this in your Word.

C **Dust we are and to dust we shall return.** (Genesis 3:19, Psalm 90:3)

P Ashes speak of condemnation for sin. When Adam fell into sin, judgment and death came to all. Since we all are born into sin we are marked for death and ashes.

C **Dust we are and to dust we shall return.**

P Ashes speak of our total dependence upon you, O God. We are but frail human beings who must rely upon you, Father. We think we are capable of taking care of ourselves and make our own plans for greatness. However, so often these plans fail and crumble into ashes.

C **Dust we are and to dust we shall return.**

P Ashes speak of our humiliation and repentance. As people in the Bible humbled themselves and expressed their repentance and mourning in the signs of sackcloth and ashes, we also humble ourselves before you, O God, as we ask you to forgive our sins through Jesus Christ, our Lord. As we repent we put on dust and ashes.

C **Dust we are and to dust we shall return.**

P People of God, as we see the meaning of ashes and dust for us as Christians, we now make our earnest confession unto the Lord.

C **Almighty God, you have always warned your people against trusting in false gods. We are sinful and this nature has given birth to sinful deeds: things we have done and things we have left undone. We are but dust and ash of the ground and we deserve nothing more than to return to the dust. Though we deserve your stern judgment, but for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, Forgive and renew us. Amen**

You have heard the Word of the Lord, “Repent and believe the gospel.” With these words, Jesus began His ministry and now directs us to make repentance and hear his good news. Therefore, as you have made repentance, now hear the gospel. I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce to you the grace of God. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

P These ashes are an outward symbol of inward repentance, reminding you of your baptism into Jesus Christ which calls you to live a new life. It is his suffering, death, burial, and resurrection to which you are joined in baptism that takes away all your sins and gives you eternal life.

**REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST,
AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN.**

C **Amen.**

(Parishioners are invited to come forward to receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads.)

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-10

3 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,² “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.”³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was ^[a]an exceedingly great city, a three days’ walk.⁴ Then Jonah began to go through the city one day’s walk; and he cried out and said, “Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

⁵ Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.⁶ When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat on the ^[b]ashes.⁷ He issued a proclamation and it said, “In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water.⁸ But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let ^[c]men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in ^[d]his hands.⁹ Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.”

¹⁰ When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*.

Second Reading

2 Peter 1:2-11

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, 7 and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6

6 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

2 “So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

⁵“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ⁶But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

Sermon

Pastor John Boor

Hymn LBW #272 “*Abide With Me*”

Let us confess our faith together through the Apostles Creed

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace

Offering

Stand P 67 OFFERTORY PRAYER
p 68 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
p 70 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER #33
p 71 LORD'S PRAYER
p 72 LAMB OF GOD

Sit DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Stand P 72 POST COMMUNION: "Thank the Lord"
P 74 PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Hymn *"The Old Rugged Cross" (1st Verse)*

On a hill far away stood an Old Rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

(The Congregation is asked to depart quietly)

Ash Wednesday

March 1, 2017

Ash Wednesday



The tone of Ash Wednesday is one of repentance as the cleansing ashes of Christ's love are inscribed upon our foreheads, the same place where in our baptism we were anointed, washed, and claimed as God's own. Jesus reminds his followers that they are to approach their acts of piety with humility and gratefulness, rather than publicly for the praise of others. Christ is our one true treasure that gives life.