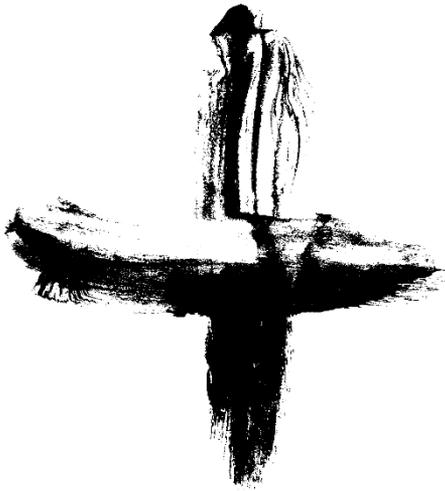


# **Zion Lutheran Church**

Oldwick, New Jersey



## **Ash Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. Imposition of Ashes



# WELCOME!

We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. As a Lutheran congregation, we are liturgical, which means we follow an order of worship which is found in the booklet in the pews. The weekly bulletin contains the lessons, gospel and hymn numbers. The hymns are located in the red hymnal. We hope you find our worship service meaningful.

Zion is a friendly, active and generous congregation.

- We support each other ... social activities, meals, rides, visits and prayer.
- We support our community ... housing the homeless, feeding the hungry locally as well as around the world, providing camp scholarships to needy children, and providing access to medication to those in need.
- We support the larger Lutheran church ... tithing (10% of our budget) to contribute toward the millions of dollars targeting world hunger, disaster relief, and the effort to end malaria. Through Lutheran Social Services, we touch 1 in every 50 Americans each year.

It is good to be gathered as God's people. If you would like more information about Zion or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Zion family, please talk to Pastor Kat.

## WORSHIPING IN LENT

As early as the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days. The forty days of Lent recall the forty-day fast of Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) and Moses' forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28). It is a time of repentance and preparation. At Zion, we observe the following changes in our worship:

- + The color for Lent is purple which symbolizes both the suffering of the crucified Jesus and the suffering of a sinful world and people. Purple is also the color of royalty, anticipating the resurrection of Christ who is victorious over sin and death.
- + The tone of the liturgy and hymns is penitential. The joyful use of the word "alleluia" (which means "praise God") is removed and will return on Easter Sunday.

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17**

Rev. Tom Jones

- <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- <sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in  
your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right  
in your judgment.**
- <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- <sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- <sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- <sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- <sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- <sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**
- <sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- <sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
- <sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

## **GREETING**

Rev. Kat Steinly

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12**

Rev. Lynn Mears

<sup>1</sup> Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup> "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator<sup>[a]</sup> shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10 if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered  
garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever 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.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Kat Steinly

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “*Savior, When in Dust to You*” ELW 601

*Please be seated.*

## **INVITATION TO LENT**

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbors. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent--self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love--strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Rev. David Ruisard

Most holy and merciful God,

**we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Rev. Liz Estes & Rev. David Ruisard

*People may come forward to receive the ashes. The Pastor marks the forehead of each person, saying:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After those who desire ashes have received them, the Pastor continues.*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rev. Liz Estes

*Each portion of the prayer ends with these words.*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord. ("Peace be with you.")*

## **OFFERING**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

#### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*Zion welcomes all who celebrate the presence of Christ to the Lord's Table for Holy Communion. An usher will direct you forward for communion. You will receive a piece of bread (wafer) in your hand and may take an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Please tell the pastor if you would like a gluten-free wafer. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please let an usher know if you would like communion brought to you in the pew. For those worshipping at home, instructions for communing will be given by the pastor.*

## **COMMUNION ANTHEM**

*“Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee”*

by K. Lee Scott

Out of the depths I cry to thee, Lord, my sins bewailing!  
Bow down thy gracious ear to me, make thou my prayer availing.  
Mark not my misdeeds in thy book, gracious Lord, most holy;  
On my sins in mercy look; who can stand before thee?  
Hear my prayer, hear my cry, hear my supplication.  
Thou my hope, Thou my light, Thou my soul’s deliverance.  
With thee there is forgiveness, Lord, love and grace abounding.  
The greatest thought or deed or word were else but empty  
sounding.

All who in thy sight appear come in sinful measure;  
All before thee bow in fear seeking thy good pleasure.  
Hear my prayer, hear my cry, hear my supplication.  
Thou my hope, Thou my light, Thou my soul’s deliverance.  
Amen.

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and  
keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your  
body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving  
hope to a world in need.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **BLESSING**

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✝ bless you this day and always.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** *“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”* ELW 319

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

Tonight's offering is being given to  
The Ukrainian Orthodox Church USA  
to provide aid to those in Ukraine.

**Participating in tonight's worship service:**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Katherine Steinly
Director of Music	Rodney Briscoe
Greeter	Sandy Matsen
Ushers	John Minerowicz & Joanne Rupp
Acolyte	Chloe Brokaw

**CLERGY**

**Lutheran**

Rev. Katherine Steinly, *Zion*

**Reformed**

Rev. Liz Estes, *Readington*

Rev. Tom Jones, *Lebanon*

Rev. David Ruisard, *Rockaway*

**United Methodist**

Rev. Lynn Mears, *Cokesbury & Fairmount*



*Connecting People with God's Grace*

**Pastor**

The Rev. Katherine Steinly

**Director of Youth and Family Ministry**

Rhonda Rossi

**Director of Music**

Rodney A. Briscoe