

Ash Wednesday: A Service of Holy Communion

Leader's Guide

**** Both Pastor Jonathan and Pastor Dustin have been fully vaccinated, which is why they will be less than 6 feet from each other ****

GATHERING

***Weekly Announcements (begin at 6:50 pm)**

***Prelude (begins at 7:00pm)**

Welcome Pastor Dustin (begins at 7:05pm)

Confession & Forgiveness

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,

pour out your mercy over us.

Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.

Rebuild what we have ruined

and mend what we have torn.

Wash us in your cleansing flood.

Make us alive in the Spirit

to follow in the way of Jesus,

as healers and restorers of the world you so love.

Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails.

The promise rests on grace:

by the saving love of Jesus Christ,

the wisdom and power of God,

your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn – Will You Come and Follow Me? (vs. 1-4)

VIDEO

Greeting

P. The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A. And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P. 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.

A. Amen.

P. We shall continue with our first reading.

WORD

First Reading – Joel 2:1-2; 12-17

(Jonathan will read LIVE)

L. Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who 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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Gospel Reading - Isaiah 58:1-12

P. A reading from Isaiah. 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. 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. "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. 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. 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?

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? 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? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. 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, 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. 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. 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.

Sermon**Rev. Dustin Wright****Hymn of the Day – *Let Us Worship God with Justice*****VIDEO**

Invitation to Lent

P. 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 called in baptism 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 neighbor. 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.

Imposition of Ashes

P. 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.

A. Amen.

*All are invited to impose ashes upon themselves and their families at this time.
Pastor Dustin and Pastor Jonathan will impose each other with ashes.*

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

A. Amen.

P. Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

A. that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P. By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

A. bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P. 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.

A. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

- P. We ask that you lift up your prayers in the comments section of Facebook Live (or in your hearts) at this time.
- P. Hear us, O God
- A. Your mercy is great.**

Intro to Response to God's Call: Micah 6:8

- P. As we have lifted up prayers for our community and world, we are reminded that we are called to go and bring the witness of God's love to the world. Will you join us in our sung response as we consider the words of the prophet Micah - what does the Lord require of you?

Response to God's Call: Micah 6:8

Peace

- P. And may the peace of Christ be with you always.
- A. And also with you.**
- P. Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

MEAL

Contact Us and Offering***

TWO SLIDES

- P. We know that some are joining us here at Messiah for the first time. If you'd like to learn more about our ministries and activities, or for any one with questions about Messiah, please contact us by email or by phone. At this time, if you'd like to make an online gift using tithe.ly or via mail to Messiah, feel free to do so.

Offering interlude music and slide

VIDEO

Offering Prayer

- P. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jonathan

P. The Lord be with you

A. And also with you!

P. Lift up your hearts

A. We lift them up to the Lord!

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

A. It is right to give our thanks and praise!

P. Holy and right it is and our joyful duty to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord, our Creator, almighty and everlasting God! You created the heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and being, and preserve us by your providence. But you have shown us the fullness of your love in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us men and for our salvation.

For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you we praise and bless you, O God.

With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name.

A. Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

P. Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the world. In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices.

Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

A. Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

- P. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into him Christ our Lord.
And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that thy whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into thy kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Lord's Prayer

- P. God remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

VIDEO

Eucharistic Prayer

- P. On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Invitation to Communion

- P. Even when we cannot be physically together, we are one in Christ Jesus united around a common table. Indeed, at this table, Jesus gathers us all together: the humble and the proud, the joyful and the grieving, the pious and the profane, those of strong faith and those who only long for faith, to everyone, without exception. Come siblings in faith, and join in Spirit filled community!

Distribution of the Sacrament

VIDEO

At this time, all may share Holy Communion amongst their families.

Post Communion Blessing

- P. Let us give thanks to God for this feast of grace. Bless the Lord, O my soul:
A. **And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Prayer After Communion

- P. O God, in this holy meal you have embraced us and gathered us into your arms of compassion and protection. Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency and ready to share with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

- P. The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of † Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Sending Hymn – *Will You Come And Follow Me? (vs. 5)* VIDEO

Benediction

- P. Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Postlude

VIDEO