

FEBRUARY 14, 2024
6:30 AM

ASH WEDNESDAY

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME Announcement for Offering

INVITATION TO LENT

Pastor: 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.

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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.

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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.

PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty and ever-living God,

All: 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.

SONG #328 *Restore in Us, O God*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Most Holy and merciful Father,

All: We confess to you, and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Pastor: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Pastor: We have been deaf 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.

All: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Pastor: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness—the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

All: We confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitations of other people,

All: We confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our anger at our own frustrations, and our envy of those whom we believe have more,

All: We confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Pastor: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Pastor: Restore us, Good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

All: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire to receive ashes should come forward.

The pastor will apply ashes to the forehead and

hear these words:

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

SCRIPTURE READING...JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17 NRSV

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;

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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.

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Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' "

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL...MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21 NRSV

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] 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.

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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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

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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. 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.

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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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION Joel Timmons

SONG #323 vs 1, 2, 5 *God Loved the World*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION INVITATION

As we celebrate this sacrament, all are invited to receive the Risen presence of Jesus.

Christ is really present—in bread and wine—forgiving sins and promising new life.

Hear these words:

Bread/wafer— “The body of Christ given for you”;

Wine— “The blood of Christ shed for you.”

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SONG #325 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

THANK OFFERING/GENEROSITY IMPACT

- To make a gift online to the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Hills, use this link: shephills.org/give.
- By mail, send to 3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746



*All Mid-Week Lenten and Easter Day special offerings support
ELCA World Hunger and
Global Refuge (previously Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services)
<https://onrealm.org/shephills/-/form/give/Lent>*

WORSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner
Preaching	Joel Timmons
Director of Worship/Arts	Kevin McClure
AV	Bill Dawson
Bread	Kitt Richter
Accompanist	Andrei Zimbalist
Admin & Community Life Coordinator	Amanda Forsberg
Campus Superintendent	Philip Perry
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Megan Getman
Communications Director	Dabney Gomes
Digital Ministry & IT	Dave Wegner
Executive Director	Bill Dawson
Finance Controller	Kevin Marlow
Program Ministry Coordinator	Joel Timmons
Spiritual Wellness and Spiritual Director	Rebecca Guengerich