

MELLINGERS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Schoeneck, PA

Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

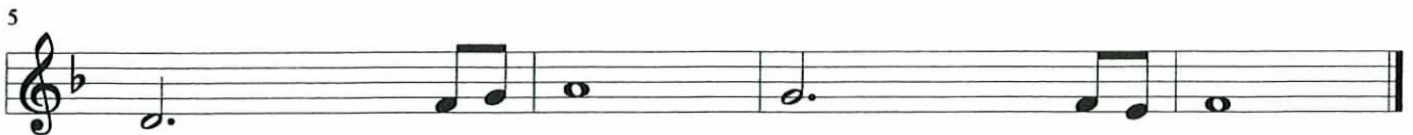
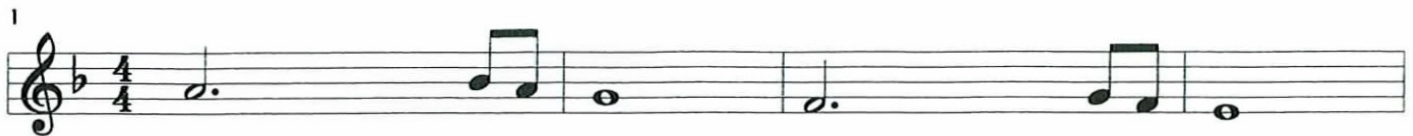
Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent with ash on our foreheads. This cross echoes our baptismal anointing, when we were buried with Christ. The ash is a chilling reminder of our mortality, but because our death is now in Christ, our endings are beginnings. The Lenten disciplines of acts of kindness, prayer, and fasting are tools of discipleship that can lead us to renewal as we bury all that is holding us back from being truly alive. The liturgy ends as it began, in silence, unfinished, for our Lenten work of prayer and repentance has just begun. God grant you the richest and most meaningful of Lenten Seasons.

OPENING PSALM

Psalm 51:1–18



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | loving kindness;*
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,*
and cleanse me | from my sin.

**³For I know | my transgressions,*
and my sin is ev- | er before me.**

**⁴Against you only | have I sinned*
and done what is evil | in your sight.**

⁵And so you are justified | when you speak*
and upright | in your judgment.

⁶Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,*
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

**Please stand if you are able.*

**7For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,*
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.**

**8Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;*
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.**

**9Make me hear of | joy and gladness,*
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

**10Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all | my iniquities.**

**11Create in me a clean | heart, O God,*
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

**12Cast me not away | from your presence,*
and take not your Holy | Spirit from me.**

**13Give me the joy of your saving | help again*
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

**14I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,*
and sinners shall re- | turn to you.**

**15Deliver me from | death, O God,*
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God
of | my salvation.**

**16Open my | lips, O LORD,*
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.**

**17Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,*
but you take no delight | in burnt-offerings.**

**18The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.**

**Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son*, and to the |
Holy Spirit;**

As it was in | the beginning,

Is now, and will be forev | er. Amen!

P: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not

desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

✠ CONFESSIO ✠

P: Most holy and merciful Father:

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: accept our repentance, Lord.

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

C: accept our repentance, Lord.

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

C: accept our repentance, Lord.

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

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

Please be seated.

THE PREFACE TO THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

“Have Mercy, O Lord”

Chancel Choir

- R. Mohr

[If you would like the ashes, please come forward into the chancel simply following the person in front of you to the rail and return to your seat when finished. Do not take a cup at this time as this is for Holy Communion later in the service. You are invited to use Psalm 90, found in pew Bible or in the hymn book, for your meditation while the ashes are being imposed.]

† THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES †

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

C: **bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.**

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

THE FIRST READING

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

¹ 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 —

² 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.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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?'"

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALMODY (sung in unison) *Psalm 103:8–14*

- 8 LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**
- 9 you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.**
- 10 You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**
- 11 For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.**
- 12 As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from
us.**
- 13 As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O
LORD.**
- 14 For you know well how | we are formed;
you remember that we | are but dust.**

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:2

Chapter 5

²⁰ We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Chapter 6

¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

*LENTEN VERSE



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (Spoken)

¹Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² 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. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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.

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

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: *“Nothing Left”*

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

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: Gathered by the Holy Spirit and renewed in the Word, let us pray to our merciful God for the needs of the world.

P: For your church marked with the cross of Christ, that it may find its richest treasure in being given away for the life of the world. Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For all preparing for baptism in this Lenten season, that your steadfast love would strengthen them and all the baptized for fasting, prayer, and works of love. Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For your creation fashioned from the dust of the ground, that your Spirit would restore threatened environments and renew our care for all creation. Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For all nations and communities beset by hardships and violence, that honest speech and acts of mercy may lead to reconciliation and peace. Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For the hungry, homeless, unemployed, imprisoned, and all suffering from any affliction (*especially*), that they might find comfort in your unchanging love. Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We give thanks for all the saints (*especially*), who know the treasure of eternal life. May all who are marked with the cross of Christ trust in the promise of the resurrection. Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers and all that we fail to ask, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ who restores us to life.

C: Amen.

***THE PEACE**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY:

Meditation on "Savior, When in Dust to You"

– H. Willan

OFFERING HYMN #186: "Create in Me..."

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

† WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER †

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

***THE PREFACE:**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....
We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

***THE SANCTUS**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,' with a final whole note. The second staff contains the melody for '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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

* **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: In 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.

***THE 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

*DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*THE AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

[Enter the chancel, take a cup, proceed to the rail and place cup in basket as you return to your seat.]

During Communion

Hymn 592: *“Just as I Am, without One Plea”*

Hymn 337: *“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”*

Hymn 616: *“Jesus, Remember Me”*

*Post Communion Blessing

*Post Communion Canticle: *“Nunc Dimittis”*

Hymn #201

*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

† WE LEAVE TO SERVE †

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen. (spoken)

**As the pastor and assisting ministers leave the chancel,
please leave in silence. May the Lenten Season bring you
new life in Christ and His Church.**

† † † † †

Acolyte: Gus Barr

Communion Assistant: Bob Getz and Shirley Sweigart

Nursery: Open Unattended

Scripture Reader: Kelly Parrish

***Ushers: Ryan Brubaker (Head Usher), Gail Harker, Tess Freeman,
Ron Gehr, and Dick Raffauf (Alt.)***

† † † † †

NORTH LANCASTER LENT CLUSTER SERVICES 2012

Theme: The Voices of Lent: Whose Voice Do You Believe?

Offering: Local Habitat Project and Richard Sarker, Missionary to Asia

Time: 7 pm **Nursery:** yes **Refreshments afterwards:** yes

****Call the host church after 10 am regarding weather cancellations****

Ash Wednesday Services: each church has their own service

Feb. 29: Rev. Joe Veres of Faith, Denver, will preach at St. John Center, East Earl. The topic will be "The Voice of Satan"

(717) 445-5505

March 7: Rev. Tim Craven of Mellingers, Schoeneck, will preach at Bergstrasse, Ephrata. The topic will be "The Voice of Judas"

(717) 733-7808

March 14: Rev. Bob Kramer of St. John Center, E. Earl, will preach at St. Paul, Adamstown. The topic will be "The Voice of Annas"

(717) 484-4885

March 21: Rev. Dennis Trout of Swamp, Reinholds, will preach at Mellingers in Schoeneck (Stevens). The topic will be "The Voice of Caiaphas"

(717)336-8800

March 28: Rev. Herb Lohr of Bergstrasse, Ephrata, will preach at Faith, Denver. The topic will be "The Voice of Peter"

(717) 336-2141

April 4: Rev. Sandy Gideon of St. Paul, Adamstown, will preach at Muddy Creek, Denver. The topic will be "The Voice of Herod"

(717) 336-2770

Also as a part of the series is the Ascension Service which will be held Thursday May 17th at Swamp Lutheran Church in Reinholds at 7:00 pm. Preaching will be the Reverend Cliff Eshbach, Assistant to the Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

(717) 336-2849

Why Ash Wednesday?

Traditionally, the Christian church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.

First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap.

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!