



Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 2023

Service of Ashes: 6:15pm

Divine Worship & Holy Communion: 6:30pm



Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

1123 Marsh Street | Mankato, MN 56001 | (507) 345-4966 | mtolivelutheran.org

Pastors: John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal: Benjamin Springer

Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)



I. The Service of Ashes & Ash Wednesday Litany **(6:15pm)**

(In this first part of our Ash Wednesday Service, we come before God acknowledging our sin and mortality—imploing Him for His mercy. All are welcome to come forward to receive the placement of ashes upon their forehead or on the back of their hand in the shape of a cross. This is a powerful, visual reminder of the result of our sins and an outward sign of the condition of our hearts—that we come before God with repentance seeking His forgiveness.)

~Prelude — Preservice music & opportunity for prayer

*(See “Prayers for Worship”
—ELH p. 40)*

~Invocation & Versicles — Calling upon God and opening prayers

(ELH p. 152, #39)

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, You hate nothing that You have made and You forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen

~Lenten Exhortation

P: Dear friends in Christ! The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, and by meditating on God’s holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now turn to the Lord, our Maker, Redeemer and Comforter.

~Ash Wednesday Prayer of Repentance

P: Let us pray: In the midst of life we are in death;

C: From whom can we seek help?

P: From You alone, O Lord, Who by our sins are justly angered,

C: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior, Deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

P: Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts, Shut not your ears to our prayers, but spare us, O Lord.

C: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior, Deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

P: O worthy and eternal Judge, Do not let the pains of death Turn us away from You at our last hour.

C: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior, Deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth; Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by Your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life;

C: Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

~The Imposition of Ashes —

(All who wish may come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. The ashes are placed on each individual with these words:)

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

~The Litany—Responsive Prayer

(ELH p. 137; p. 139, 1)

P: Kyrie eleison. **C: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P: Christe eleison. **C: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P: Kyrie eleison. **C: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P: O Christ, hear us. **C: O Christ, hear us.**

P: O God the Father in heaven, **C: Have mercy upon us.**

P: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **C: Have mercy upon us.**

P: O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, **C: Have mercy upon us.**

P: Be gracious unto us. **C: Spare us, good Lord.**

P: Be gracious unto us. **C: Help us, good Lord.**

P: From all sin; From all error; from all evil; **C: Good Lord, deliver us.**

P: From the temptations and assaults of the devil; From sudden and evil death; From disease and famine; From war and bloodshed; From sedition and rebellion; From storms and natural disaster; From all calamity by fire and water; And from everlasting death: **C: Good Lord, deliver us.**

P: By the mystery of Your holy Incarnation; By Your holy Nativity; By Your Baptism, Fasting and Temptation; By Your Agony and Bloody Sweat; By Your Cross and Passion; By Your precious Death and Burial; By Your glorious Resurrection and Ascension; And by the coming of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: In all time of our tribulation; In all time of our prosperity; In the hour of death; And in the Day of Judgment:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: We poor sinners do beseech You;

C: To hear us, O Lord God.

P: And to lead and govern Your holy Christian church in the right way; To preserve all pastors and servants of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your Word, and in holiness of life; To put an end to all godless teaching and causes of offense; To bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived; To beat down Satan under our feet; To send faithful laborers into Your harvest; To accompany Your Word with Your Spirit and grace; To raise up those who stand; And to comfort and help the faint-hearted and distressed:

C: We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To give to all nations peace and concord; To preserve our country from discord and contention; To direct and defend our government, and all in authority; And to bless and keep all who administer justice, and all our people:

C: We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To behold and sustain all who are in danger, necessity and tribulation; To protect all who travel; To preserve all women in the perils of childbirth; To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; To set free all who are innocently imprisoned; To defend and provide for all fatherless children and widows; and to have mercy on all people:

C: We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts; To give and preserve to our use the fruits of the earth; And graciously to hear our prayers:

C: We beseech You to hear us, good Lord.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God: **C: We beseech You to hear us.**

P: O Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; **C: Have mercy upon us.**

P: O Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; **C: Have mercy upon us.**

P: O Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; **C: Grant us Your peace.**

P: O Christ, hear us. **C: O Christ, hear us.**

P: Kyrie eleison. **C: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P: Christe eleison. **C: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P: Kyrie eleison. **C: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

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.

P: The Lord has not dealt with us according to our sins

C: The Lord has not punished us according to our iniquities.

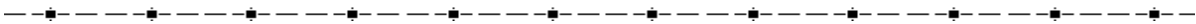
P: Lord God Almighty, You do not fail to hear the sighs of the contrite nor disregard the longing of troubled hearts: Behold our prayer which we bring before You in our need and graciously hear us, so that all that strives against us of both the devil and men may come to nought and be scattered by Your good counsel, to the end, that, unharmed by all temptation, we may thank You with Your Church and praise You at all times; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

~Hymn 276, v. 1, 3 *When O'er My Sins I Sorrow*

~Time for Silent Prayer and Reflection

(We will take time for silent prayer and meditation while the organ plays reflective Lenten music. We will ask that those who come into the Sanctuary please refrain from visiting as we prepare our hearts for worship and Holy Communion. If you are looking for material to guide your meditation, you may want to review the Small Catechism on pg. 31 in our Hymnary; "Christian Questions and Answers" in preparation of receiving the Lord's Supper on pg. 38; or the "Prayers for Worship" on pg. 40. Our service will continue at 6:30pm)



II. The Service of Preparation (6:30pm)



(We prepare ourselves for worshiping God by acknowledging our unworthiness to stand before Him, and by receiving His forgiveness through absolution (forgiveness). We respond with thanks and joy.)

~Hymn 287, vv. 1, 4, 5 *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

~**Confession of Sin** — *Admitting our sinfulness to God*

(ELH p. 41-42, II)

P: Let us confess our sins to God and pray: We poor sinners confess to You, O God, not only that we have been conceived and born in sin, but also that throughout life we have

often and in many ways offended You, our Lord and Maker, in thought, word and deed, so that You could with perfect justice reject and condemn us for all eternity. Therefore we come before You with sorrow of heart, in dread and terror of Your holy justice and of everlasting death. Our sins are a grievous foe, which we should hate in every way as long as we live.

O merciful God, You still grant us in this hour to be reminded of Your fatherly goodness. According to the promise of Your Word we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, and implore You, dearest Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son, our Brother, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised again for our justification:

Forgive us all our sins through faith, which the Holy Spirit increases in our hearts to full assurance.

C: We therefore pray You, O Lord, through Your servant to declare to us the forgiveness of all our sins. We poor sinners are willing to forgive all who have offended against us. We earnestly desire to grow in true godliness. Help us, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

~**Kyrie Eleison** – *“Lord, Have Mercy”*

(ELH p. 42-43)

C: ♪ O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us. O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us. O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us.

~**Absolution** — *God’s declaration of forgiveness*

(ELH p. 43, II; Mt 11:28, Jn 3:16)

P: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord: Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~**Salutation** — *The people’s blessing for the pastor’s work*

(ELH p. 45)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

~**Collect** — *The congregation’s prayer of the day*

(ELH p. 45; p. 155, #65)

P: Let us pray: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You, that of Your indescribable grace, for the sake of Your Son, You have given us the holy Gospel, and have instituted the holy Sacraments, that though these we may have comfort and forgiveness of sin: We beseech You, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily believe Your Word;

and through the holy Sacraments day by day establish our faith, until we at last obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

III. The Service of the Word



(After receiving the forgiveness of sins, we thanked God by singing His praises and praying to Him. He now increases our faith through His holy Word which we hear through the Lessons and especially through the Sermon where God's Word is applied to our lives today.)

~Epistle Lesson

(EHV)

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says: At a favorable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation! We are giving no one a reason to stumble in any way, so that our ministry will not be blamed. Rather, in every way we show ourselves to be God's ministers: in great endurance, in troubles, in hardships, in difficulties, in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in hard work, in sleepless nights, in times of hunger; in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, in the word of truth, in the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness on the right and on the left; through glory and dishonor, through bad report and good report; treated as deceivers yet being honest, treated as unknown and yet being well known; as dying, and yet look—we live; as punished yet not put to death; as grieving yet always rejoicing; as poor yet making many rich; as having nothing yet possessing everything.

~Adult Choir *Turn Thy Face From My Sins*

(A. Sullivan)

*Turn thy face from my sins,
and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence,
and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.*

~Holy Gospel Lesson

(EHV)

Matthew 6:16-21 Whenever you fast, do not make yourself look sad like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show everyone that they are fasting. Amen I

tell you: They have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that it is not apparent to people that you are fasting, but only to your Father who sees what is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. “Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

~**Nicene Creed** — *Confession of faith*

(*ELH p. 47*)

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the Resurrection of the dead and the Life of the world to come.

♪ Amen.

~**Hymn 449, vv. 1, 2, 7 Thy Love, O Gracious God and Lord**

~**Old Testament Lesson & Sermon Text**

(*NKJV*)

Psalm 51 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, And

blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

~Sermon Theme

“A Season for a New Heart”

~Offering Hymn 449, v. 8 *On Christ, the Rock, I’m Anchored Fast*

~Offering Prayer

(We take this time to acknowledge and thank God for moving the hearts of His people to continue to support the mission and work of our church. Our ushers will bring the offering plates forward to the altar and the pastor will offer a prayer of thanks. Please note: You may place any offerings into the plates on the stands at the main aisle entrance to the Sanctuary either before or after the service. Online giving is also available through mtolivelutheran.org or by text message through your smartphone by texting the amount you would like to give to 833-726-3742 (a link will be provided for first-time users to register an account.)

~Ash Wednesday Prayers & Special Petitions

IV. The Service of Holy Communion



(Following Christ’s command, we receive His grace to us in the special meal He instituted for the forgiveness of our sins. Here, He feeds with His true body and His true blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is the same body which was born of the Virgin Mary, and the same blood which dripped down the wooden cross. This part of the liturgy is one of the oldest parts, dating back to at least the third century AD.)

Questions and prayers to assist in preparing for the Lord's Supper are found in the black hymnal, pp. 38–40.

Guests & Visitors: *We practice “Close” or “Closed Communion”. We do this out of love and concern for you. We want to make sure that those who take this holy meal receive it as a blessing and not to their harm as Scripture warns. We also understand that those who come forward to take communion are professing a unity of faith with our congregation and are in full agreement with the teachings and doctrines of Mount Olive Lutheran Church and of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Therefore, we ask those who have not taken Holy Communion with us before to Speak with a pastor before communing. Thank you.*

~Preface

(ELH p. 51)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts unto the Lord.

C: ♪ We lift up our hearts unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: ♪ It is good and right so to do.

~The Proper Preface

(ELH p. 51)

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

~Sanctus — “Holy”

(ELH p. 51)

C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav’n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

~Lord’s Prayer

(ELH p. 53; Mt 6:9-13)

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 pow’r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~Words of Institution (ELH p. 54; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

~Agnus Dei — "Lamb of God" (ELH p. 55; Jn 1:29)

C: ♪ O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God. You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

~Distribution (Communicants come forward at the direction of the ushers. During the Distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:)

~Hymn 320, vv. 1, 4, 6, 7 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Bestowed

~Hymn 300 Sweet the Moments Rich in Blessing

~Hymn 328, vv. 7, 8 Jesus, Sun of Life, My Splendor

~Hymn 522 O Faithful God, Thanks Be To Thee

~Dismissal— Assurance of blessing for those who have communed (ELH p. 56)

P: Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, who has now bestowed upon you His holy body and blood, whereby He has made full satisfaction for all your sins, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life. Peace be with you. Amen.

~Collect of Thanksgiving — In appreciation of God's gifts (ELH p. 56)

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with these Your salutary gifts; and we beseech You of Your mercy, to strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: ♪ Amen.

~Benediction — Final blessing for God's people (ELH p. 56-57; Num. 6:24-26)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.

~Closing Hymn 593 On My Heart

*Officiant: Pastor Luke Ulrich
Organist: John Baumann*



**PSALMS
OF THE PASSION**

LENTEN SERIES

MIDWEEK #1 - WEDS., MARCH 1 - PSALM 34

Vespers Service: 6:30p | Preacher: Pr. John Petersen

MIDWEEK #2 - WEDS., MARCH 8 - PSALM 31

Vespers Service: 6:30p | Preacher: Pr. Micah Plocher

MIDWEEK #3 - WEDS., MARCH 15 - PSALM 35

Vespers Service: 6:30p | Preacher: Pr. Jonathon Bourman

MIDWEEK #4 - WEDS., MARCH 22 - PSALM 109

Vespers Service: 6:30p | Preacher: Pr. Ken Mellon

MIDWEEK #5 - WEDS., MARCH 29 - PSALM 69

Vespers Service: 6:30p | Preacher: Pr. Matthew Moldstad

*(Join us before our Wednesday Evening Services for meals
provided by the various groups of our congregation.
Lenten meals are served from 5pm to 6:15pm)*

Mount Olive Lutheran Church Mission Statement

The mission of Mount Olive Lutheran Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ through God's Word, so that souls are called into and kept in the Christian faith unto eternal life.