

Ash Wednesday Service

March 6th, 2019 7:00pm

United Methodist Church of Lena

118 W. Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048

Jointly with

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

118 E Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048 Church office: 815-369-5552



The Good Shepherd cares for us. He gives His Life for us and to us. We give and use our lives in love, care and service of one another.

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

Tena Rackow

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

PSALM 51:1-17 (read responsively)

We will read the refrain together. The refrain is read when there is R at the end of the sentence.

*Refrain: **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness.** (Ps. 51:1)*

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

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

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**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. R**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice. R**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. R**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be re-stored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise. **R**

EXHORTATION

CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful Father:

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.

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, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

we confess to you, Lord.

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

we confess to you, Lord.

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

we confess to you, Lord.

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

we confess to you, Lord.

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

we confess to you, Lord.

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,

accept our repentance, Lord.

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

accept our repentance, Lord.

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

accept our repentance, Lord.

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

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

Imposition of Ashes *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

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 Lord,

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (spoken)

Return to the LORD, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. *(Joel 2:13)*

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pr. Keri Rainsberger

Silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY “OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED” WOV# 733

APOSTLES’ CREED

WOV p. 55

THE PRAYERS

PEACE P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS (spoken)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. *(Ps. 51:10-12)*

DIALOGUE

WOV p. 36

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

WOV p. 36

SANCTUS (spoken)

WOV p. 36

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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. Hosanna in the highest.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

WOV p. 37

LORD'S PRAYER

WOV p. 39

COMMUNION HYMN

WOV p. 39

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

WOV p. 40

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

WOV p. 41

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

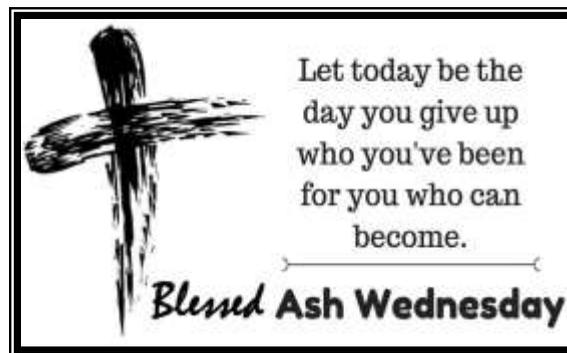
WOV p. 41

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Tena Rackow

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Worship and Service Helpers

Preacher: Pastor Keri Rainsberger

Presiding Minister: Pastor Miho Yasukawa

Pianist: Tena Rackow

Worship Planning: Good Shepherd Worship Committee

Bulletin: Betty Allen

Invitation to Lent

Lena area Lenten Luncheon and Devotion Schedule

Luncheon starts at **noon** followed by a short devotion. A free will offering will be accepted. All are welcome!

March 13th - at Good Shepherd

March 20th - at Evangelical Free

March 27th - at St. Joseph

April 3rd -at St John's

April 10th -at Lena UMC

April 17th -at Lena UMC hosted by Salem and Beloved



Mid-week Lenten Evening Service

Every Wednesday nights during Lent at Good Shepherd, we gather together to share meals, scripture readings, and prayer. This year we will read Psalms from Lasting Hope: Devotion for Lent 2019. Devotion books are available at the church for free of charge. No preparation is necessary. Anyone at any stage in one's walk in life is welcome.

A supper starts at 5:30pm, and the service starts at 6:30pm.

We lift our prayers:

For the church, bring healing to our division

For the earth, restore damaged lands

For the nation and government officials and leaders

For those who are ill, displaced, and struggling

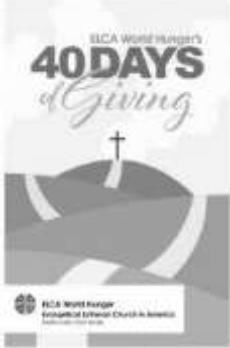
For your people affected by the tornado in Lee County, Alabama

For the victims of gun violence

For those who are mourn

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.





Lent is a story of the journey of the people of God. It is the story of us, or more appropriately “God with us.” During the season, we remember the ancient Hebrews’ journey from slavery in Egypt and a generation spent wandering in the wilderness. We also re-enact, in our own small ways, Jesus’ journey into the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil. The fast that many Christians commit to during Lent is a reflection of the 40-day fast Jesus undertook during this sacred time of Lent, we are the Hebrews – wandering in the desert, living in awareness of our dependence on God, and having our faith tested in uncertain times. In the sacred time of Lent, we are Jesus – alone in the wilds of the world, purifying ourselves through the discipline of fasting, and facing head-on the temptations of the world. Lent is a journey, or a series of journeys, but what we often forget is the part that comes after the journey. The Hebrews weren’t just wandering through the wilderness; they were being prepared to be the people of God in their new land. Jesus wasn’t merely re-treating to the desert; he was prepping for the start of his ministry. In our own Lenten season, we turn inward, reflecting on our dependence on God’s grace. But the disciplines of Lent are not the end of the journey. Through the four practices of Lent – repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving, and works of love – we turn inward so that we may turn outward, toward God and our neighbors. Marked by ashes at the start, we enter the 40 days of Lent with penitent hearts and awareness of our need for God’s mercy. Repentance and self-reflection are important practices, but it’s easy to stay here, forgetting that the season is about so much more than our own self-examination.... Being marked by ashes, fasting, confession, and other penitent practices of Lent invite us to turn inward. But the spiritual practices of Lent also lead us to turn outward, “taking hold of the promise” of God as we practice the other Lenten disciplines: sacrificial giving and works of love for our neighbors.

Excerpt from Lenten Study Guide ELCA World Hunger’s 40 Days of Giving. Pages 5-6