



St. Paul

Lutheran Church & Preschool

115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001

Church & Office Phone: 440-988-4157

Fax: 440-988-5436

E-Mail: churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com

Website: stpaulamherst.com

Church Services: 8:30 & 10:00 AM

Pastor, Paul G. Werner: 586-201-3302

Preschool Director, Beth Naro: 440-988-5427

Serving in God's House

Pastor Rev. Paul Werner

Organist Oziah Wales

Elder Ron Fisher, John Schick

Reader Bob Steindl

Greeters Karen Anderson

Altar Guild Wanda Aschenbach

Head Usher Ron Fisher

Ushers Dan Streza, Chuck Draga, Danny Kemery, Bob Kemmerle



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Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023



Welcome Guests! We're honored that you've chosen to be with us at St. Paul. We hope you'll see that our welcome mat is out to you. Please relax, get to meet others, and experience God.

The name given to today is "ASH WEDNESDAY." It is a name which reminds us of our need for Jesus Christ. Ash has no value in itself. Ashes remind us that because of our sin, we are dead, worthless, and of no use. Ashes remind us of the result of our sin, which is, that our bodies die and will decompose. God formed humans from the dust of the ground and we will return to dust. "Ash to ash; dust to dust." There's no doubt: We NEED God! Our emptiness highlights God's fullness, and His love that makes us alive! Thank God for Jesus' life-giving death and resurrection!

If you want to RECEIVE ASHES as a symbol of genuine confession before God, you may receive them before or after the service. The ashes are normally placed on the forehead, although if you want to have ashes placed on the back of the hand please raise your hand to the pastor. The ashes form a small cross. The ashes remind us of our coming death and the hopelessness of counting on ourselves as the way to heaven. The cross placed on your forehead or hand reminds you of Jesus who is our hope. The pastor addresses each person with the words, *"Though you mourn you sin with ashes, through the cross of Jesus Christ you are forgiven."*

TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Receiving Ashes

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell/Call to Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Greeting One Another With God's Peace

Hymn "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

TUNE: ST.FLAVIAN, LSB 577 TEXT: LSB 418

Invocation

Opening Sentences & Prayer Joel 2:13

Hymn "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" LSB 440, vss. 1-2

✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 9:23-24

Readings From The Bible Book of Proverbs

Anthem "Change My Heart, O God" MERCY/VINEYARD PUBLISHING

The Gospel Lesson John 13:1,3-10,12-17

Children's Message

Hymn "Today Your Mercy Calls Us" LSB 915, vss. 1-2,4

Sermon "7 DEADLY SINS: **PRIDE**"

Confession of Our Sinfulness

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Nicene Creed

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Preparing to Receive Holy Communion

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

Lord's Prayer

The Peace

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn "Christ, the Life of All the Living" LSB 420

Blessing of Communicants

Benediction

Hymn "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" LSB 609, vss. 1,2,6,7

Silent Prayer

Postlude & Receiving Ashes

Wednesday Midweek Lent Worship Services continue every Wednesday @ 7:00 pm evening thru March 29th.

Tonight we receive Holy Communion firmly believing that Jesus' Words, "*This is My Body... This is My Blood*" mean what they say, namely that with the bread and wine of Holy Communion is really given Jesus' Body and Blood. Holy Communion is more than a "memorial" or a "representation" of Jesus. God's promise to us in the Bible is that Jesus is really present to forgive your sins and strengthen your faith. Furthermore, receiving Holy Communion is not a good work we perform and offer up to God. Rather, Communion is Jesus coming to you personally to give and work in you His forgiveness won on the cross.

Since scripture instructs us to examine ourselves before receiving Holy Communion, please sincerely reflect on these questions before receiving Communion:

- Am I so sorry for my sins that I don't want to go back and repeat them?
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my personal Savior from sin because He gave His life on the cross for me? Am I depending on Him, and not my own goodness, as the way to Heaven?
- Do I believe that Jesus gives His Body and Blood and His gift of forgiveness in the eating and drinking of the bread and wine of Communion?
- Do I sincerely intend, with the help of God, not to return to a life of sin but to live for God and love others deeper?

All who have been instructed in what the Bible teaches about Communion, who are in agreement and unity with the beliefs of St. Paul and congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who believe the statements of belief above are welcome to receive communion. If you have not investigated our beliefs in our "*New Life With God*" class, we ask that you do so before receiving Communion.



PRIDE, LUST, GREED, GLUTTONY, LAZINESS, ANGER, ENVY

It's not that they are more deadly than other sins. Murder isn't even on the list. Instead, these are the fountains, the springs from where all other sins bubble up from. This Lent we will examine the CAUSES that lead one person to murder another, one country to enslave another, one spouse to cheat on another, one set of lips to lie to another. Get ready for serious soul-searching!