

Ash Wednesday

Stockholm Lutheran Church

February 14, 2018 -- 7:00 p.m.

(You are encouraged to prepare to worship the LORD in silence)

* All page and hymn numbers refer to the red worship book (“Worship”) *

PSALM 51:1-17 (v. 1—Pastor; v. 2—Men; v. 3—Women, etc.)

(The Psalms begin on page 339)

GREETING (please stand) P: The Lord be with you; C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD OF GOD

BIBLE READING Isaiah 58

P: The Word of the Lord; C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 103:8-14

P: The Word of the Lord; C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE: *“Return to the Lord”* Page 151

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL BIBLE READING Matthew 6

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

SERMON Rev. Mark Little

HYMN *“Healer of Our Every Ill”* # 612

INVITATION TO HAVE A MEANINGFUL LENT

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Brothers and sisters, God created us to experience joy as we live together with him, to love all humanity and to live in harmony with all creation.

M: But sin separates us from God, our neighbor and creation and we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us.

W: Also, by our sin we grieve our heavenly Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

P: As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to a discipline that fights against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

C: Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of service and love--the disciplines of Lent--help us to wage spiritual warfare against the power of the Evil One, with God’s help. (Ephesians 6:12-13)

P: Therefore, I invite you my brothers and sisters in Christ, to commit yourselves to the discipline of Lent. Together we join in asking our Heavenly Father for strength from his Word and Holy Meal. Let us begin this journey through the forty days of Lent, toward the Passion of Jesus’ death and his joyful resurrection.

SILENCE (We ponder the sinfulness and brokenness in us, and in our world. We realize our need for God’s forgiveness and healing)

CONFESSION OF SIN

Insert

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign that we are sorry for our sin, and a reminder that “we will not live forever.” Remind us that only by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus are we given eternal life; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Those who come forward will receive the sign of the cross in ashes on their forehead, and hear the words of God from the Old Testament book of Genesis, chapter three: *“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*)

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: that our lives may show your goodness and glory to others.

P: By the cross and the suffering and death of your Son, our Savior,

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

GOD’S CALL TO REPENTANCE AND GOOD WORKS

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire that his people suffer from the effects of sin, and from the death that is caused by turning from Him. Instead, God desires that people turn away from their sin, towards God and his forgiveness that brings new life.

C: We eagerly ask God to grant us true “heart repentance” so that we may turn to God and be changed. May we please God with holy lives, and come to eternal joy at the Last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

SILENCE

THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

SHARING THE PEACE OF GOD

OFFERING OUR SELVES, OUR TIME AND POSSESSIONS TO GOD

OFFERING PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken) Page 152
 CONSECRATION OF THE BREAD & WINE / JESUS IS PRESENT
 LORD’S PRAYER Page 154
 COMMUNION SONG: “Lamb of God” Page 154
 DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND WINE: Hymns: # 335, 608
 COMMUNION PRAYER
 BENEDICTION
 SENDING

P: You have been marked with the cross of Jesus. Go into your world to love and serve all his people.

C: **In the name of Jesus.**

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THE LENTEN MEALS will begin next Wednesday, February 21 and will be served from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Hosts are still needed.

THANK-YOU TO Eleanor Olson for baking the bread for Holy Communion tonight.

FAITH RESOURCE FOR THE SEASON OF LENT Your Lord invites you to grow in your relationship with Him who gives you life, and saves your soul from death.

Copies of the devotional “*You Are the Way*” are available in the back of the church. They are free for the taking, but if you wish to help us pay for this resource, the cost is \$2.25.



**Ash Wednesday Service
 February 14, 2018
 7:00 pm**

Stockholm Lutheran Church

CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Most holy and merciful Heavenly Father,

C: we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole company 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.

HYMN *"Our Father, We Have Wandered"* (v. 1) # 606

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. Have mercy on us, Lord.

C: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Jesus served us. We have not followed Jesus in our daily lives. We confess to you the unfaithfulness, pride, hypocrisy, and uncaring attitudes that have infected our lives. We confess to you our selfish ways of consuming things, and taking advantage of others. Have mercy on us, Lord.

HYMN *"Our Father, We Have Wandered"* (v. 2) # 606

P: We too often neglect regular worship and prayer. We are afraid to share our faith with others. We ignore human need and suffering, and are too often uncaring about injustice and cruelty in our world. Have mercy on us Lord.

C: We hold onto unkind thoughts about our neighbors and those different from us. We waste and pollute your creation, forgetting about those who come after us. Have mercy on us, O God.

HYMN *"Our Father, We Have Wandered"* (v. 3) # 606

SILENCE (Your silent petitions for God to forgive you, and for God to create life and healing in your life. Petitions may include: your home and family, where we work, our school, hobbies, the world, money, attitudes, greed, being judgmental, gossip, etc.)

ALL: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Restore us, O God, and let your anger leave us.

HYMN *"Just As I Am"* # 592