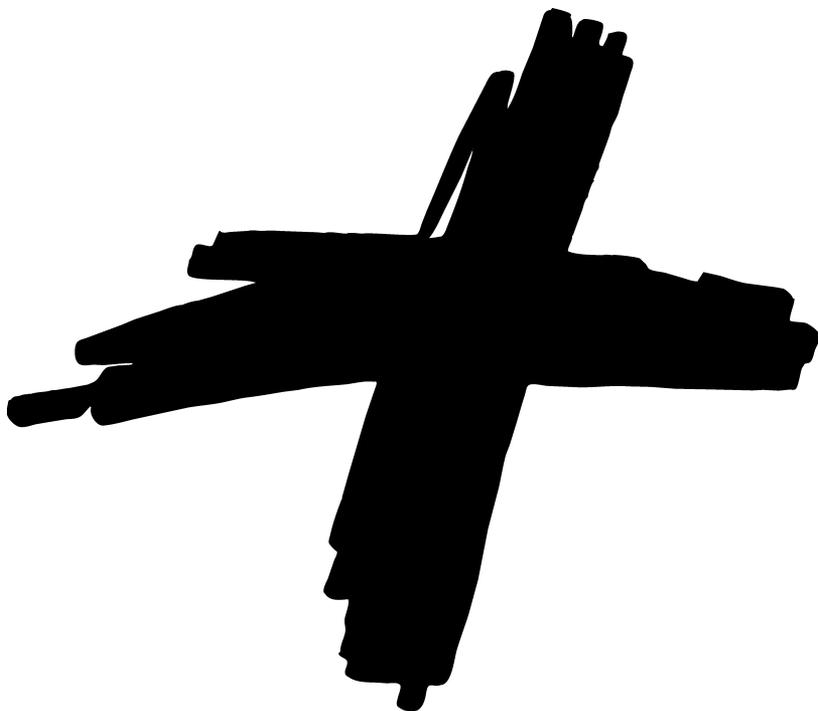


Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024



On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.



ZION

Ministries Under the Cross

959 SE 6th Avenue • Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(954) 421-3146 • www.zion-lutheran.org

Welcome to Zion!

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

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we're glad you're here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God's goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God's gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

We Gather

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray together... **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 receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from the prophet Joel:

¹Blow 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—²a 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.

¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend 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. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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. ¹⁷Between 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?’ ”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

A reading from Paul’s second letter to the church at Corinth:

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff is for the Cantor and Assembly, with lyrics: "Come let us re - turn to the Lord, come, let us re - turn to the Lord;". The second staff is for All, with lyrics: "Come, let us re - turn to the Lord, let us re-turn to the Lord." The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final cadence on a whole note.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew...

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware 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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

These are the words of our Lord. They are true and can be trusted.
Praise to you, O Christ!

GOD’S MESSAGE FOR ALL

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn #606

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another...Most holy and merciful God, **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous 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, O God.**

We have shut our ears 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, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

People may come forward to receive ashes. During this time, Psalm 51 will be chanted and silence observed for the remainder of the time.

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

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope. The response to each petition is, “Hear our prayer.”

Merciful Lord, where people ask, “Where is their God?” send your church. Equip us with compassion and boldness to listen to our neighbors. Make our speech and actions witness to your eternal presence. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, where terror shouts, send peace. Deliver all from the threat of bloodshed and the trauma of violence. Reconcile nation with nation and neighbor with neighbor. We pray this especially for the people of Ukraine, Palestine, and Israel. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, where bellies rumble, send food. Bless Nina’s Place, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief and all who work to ensure no one goes to bed hungry. Provide for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, including those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts... Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, when hearts and minds call for you, send faithful disciples. Walk with all who prepare for baptism. Uphold them with a community rooted in your word and nourished by bread and wine. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, where death stings, send comfort. Be with all who mourn. In the midst of their sorrow and pain, sustain their trust in the eternal life you give. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

To you, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

5 Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts.

9 Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts.

13 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

16 Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high -

est. Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na!

19 Bless-ed is he who comes! Bless-ed is he who comes!



Bless-ed is he ___ who comes ___ in the name of the Lord! ___

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Music by Cantor Peter J. Rizzo

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - low - ed be your
name, hal - low - ed be your name. Your king - dom come, your
will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven, on earth as it is in hea - ven.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for - give those who sin a -
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from
e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the



SHARING THE MEAL

Here is bread for the journey, a feast for hungry hearts.
Come to the table of mercy and grace.

*During the season of Lent, our meal is shared in silence.
You are encouraged to use this time for prayer and contemplation.*

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. May God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Hymn #325

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace.
Share your bread with the world. **Thanks be to God!**

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Holy Communion at Zion

Christ's table is open to all! We offer grape juice for those who desire. If, for reasons of conscience or health, you are unable to receive either the bread or the wine, please know that the Church affirms the full presence of Christ in each element.

For Whom & For What Shall We Pray?

If you would like to submit a name(s) to include in our **Prayers of the People**, please use an index card from the Welcome Table and place it in the prayer basket at the altar **before the Hymn of the Day**. In order to keep our prayer list current, all names must be resubmitted each week if you desire continued prayers.

Opportunities to Serve Joyfully & Give Selflessly

Fill the Soup Pot: Spare Change & Soup Continues

Continuing through the end of February, you are invited to bring your spare change for a "noisy offering" and cans of soup to worship on Sunday mornings. The spare change will go toward buying additional shelf-stable items for our friends at Nina's Place.

Sunday Morning Worship Leadership (Greeters, Assisting Ministers, Readers, Coffee Fellowship)



Prayer Team at Nina's Place!

Nina's Place is always in need of volunteers! To get connected for our Thursday & Friday food deliveries, speak to Cantor Kurt Schmidt to be added to the What's App group. To sign up for a Saturday volunteer spot, visit www.ninasplacedfb.org.

Looking Ahead to Wednesdays in Lent
February 21 & 28, March 6, 13, & 20 in Katie Luther Chapel



- 5:30 p.m. *Dinner***
6:00 p.m. *Conversation/Educational Forum*
7:30 p.m. *Holden Evening Prayer*

In partnership with Deerfield Beach Community Cares, we are hosting a series of classes on food and money for our Nina's Place families. The first three weeks will cover food-related topics, be facilitated by Feeding South Florida, and be offered in English, Spanish, and Creole. The last two classes will cover budgeting and credit and be facilitated by First Horizon Bank.

Let's demonstrate our Zion spirit of hospitality. We will help serve dinner, eat and learn with our neighbors, and end the evening with prayer. Holden Evening Prayer will also be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.