

Ash Wednesday



Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ

March 2, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

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Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal! All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect the most vulnerable among us, **masks continue to be required in the building.** Masking of young children is up to the discretion of parents. Good Soil's Gathering Again task force will be meeting this week in light of the recently updated CDC guidance. Council will be discussing this at our next council meeting as well.*

Ash Wednesday

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.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome to Worship and Announcements

Silence for reflection.

† Prayer of the Day

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

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.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Joel 2:12-17

To put this reading into context:

Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

Hear now a reading from the book of Joel.

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?’ ”

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

† **Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

To put this reading into context:

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

The Gospel reading is announced by the pastor. We rise to our feet, if able, as a sign of respect and anticipation for the Gospel that reveals Jesus Christ to us.

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.”

	<p>The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.</p>
	<p>Children's Sermon</p>
	<p>Homily: The Rev. Marissa Harrison</p> <p><i>Silence for reflection.</i></p>
	<p>Hymn of Prayer: This is My Song ELW 887</p> <p><i>Music has long been used for subversive means against authoritarian regimes. The composer Jean Sibelius wrote this beloved tune, Finlandia, as a protest to imperial Russia's censorship of non-Russian music. It has become a famous hymn tune used by countless communities of faith around the world.¹</i></p> <p>1 This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.</p> <p>2 My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine. But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine. So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.</p>

¹ Gratitude to Pastor Robert Eller and Emmanuel Lutheran Church in New Philadelphia, OH for this meaningful insight.

3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts. 1-2; Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, st. 3
Text sts. 1-2 © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Company. Text st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing
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Invitation to Lent

† Call to Confession

Siblings in Christ, God in Christ comes among sinners to call them to repent and to gather them into God's loving embrace. Through Christ, the entire forgiveness of our sin is accomplished and our acceptance as God's beloved is assured.

Thanks be to God.

† Confession of Sin

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,
for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

Making the sign of the cross with ashes upon the forehead is an ancient tradition of the Church. It is derived from the practice of penitents throwing ashes over their heads when they had finished their confession and prayers. The imposition of ashes is a voluntary act of Christian devotion; neither an act of pride nor shame, but meant to be an aid in "returning to God."

Those who desire to receive ashes in the spirit of humility and repentance may come forward at this time. If you desire to have ashes placed on your hand instead of your forehead, please extend your hand as you approach the pastor. May this spiritual experience be one of renewal, cleansing, and closeness with God.

Hymn During the Imposition of Ashes:
Restore In Us, O God
ELW 328

1 Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.

- 2 O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.
- 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.
- 4 Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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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.

As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world.

† Prayers of the Church

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Grant peace and safety to the people of Ukraine and Russia. Bring an end to war and violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief especially . . . Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you. Receive us along with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

Offering

Tonight's offering will be designated as a 100% love offering toward relief in Ukraine through Lutheran Disaster Response. This QR code will take you directly to Good Soil's online giving page. Please put "Ukraine" in the memo line under the "Support Good Soil" category.

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page:



Offertory

	<p>† Offering Prayer</p> <p>Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.</p>
	<p>† Great Thanksgiving</p> <p>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p> <p>Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.</p> <p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>
	<p>† Words of Institution</p>
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i></p>	<p>† Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)</p> <p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.</p> <p>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</p>

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.

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to kneel as you are able at the communion rail to receive the elements and then return to your seat before partaking of them.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn 1: All Things of Dust to Dust Return ACS 920 (not included in ELW)

- 1 All things of dust to dust return
on earth and in the sky.
The hottest, brightest suns that burn
in time grow dim and die.
The fish that leap, the birds that soar,
the newborn young that play,
the leaves that fill the forest floor
revert to dust and clay.
- 2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow
so I may comprehend
that ev'ry moment here and now
links me to that same end
I share with all that breathe and burn,
that flare and fade and tire

yet by their waning light discern
your own undying fire.

- 3 Lord, mark upon my brow this sign:
a stark and barren cross
reminding me that though divine
you know my pain and loss,
and at the touch of dust and ash
awake my heart to view
how death itself is but a flash
that dies away in you.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

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**Communion Hymn 2: Just as I Am, without One
Plea ELW 592 vs 1, 2, & 3**

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

	<p>† Post-Communion Table Blessing</p> <p>May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.</p>
<p><i>With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Sending</u> <i>God blesses us and send us in mission to the world.</i></p> <p>† Blessing</p> <p>You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always. Amen.</p>
<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p>† Sending Hymn: Lord Jesus, Think on Me ELW 599 vs 1, 2, & 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin; from selfish passions set me free and make me pure within. 2 Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed; let me your loving servant be and taste your promised rest. 3 Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;

through darkness and perplexity
point out your chosen way.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.

The dismissal sends us out into the world as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!

† Dismissal

Now go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honor all people;
love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

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Announcements

Lenten Small Groups: Hungry for deeper connection with God and your faith community? All members and friends of Good Soil are invited and encouraged to participate in small groups during the Lenten season.

Each group will meet once a week for 5 weeks (beginning Monday, Mar 7th through Saturday, Apr 9th) to deepen relationships and grow in faith together. Each group will be led by a lay leader and meet at a different time of the week, so join the group that works best for you:

Monday Evening via Zoom
 Tuesday at Noon via Zoom
 Wednesday Evening Zoom
 Thursday Morning In-Person
 Saturday Morning In-Person

We have 20 people signed up already and there's still time to join. Use this QR code to sign up for a group of your choice:



CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
DAY	EVENT	TIME
Wed, Mar 2	ASH WEDNESDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship 	7:00 p.m.
Sat, Mar 5	Ladies' Breakfast – Gene's Place	9:00 a.m.
Sun, Mar 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour begins again 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Mon, Mar 7	Lenten Small Groups Begin	
Sat, Apr 9	Lenten Small Groups End	