

## \*Blessing & Charge

Leader: Go forth into the world in the strength of God's mercy to live and to serve in newness of life. May Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven, bless and keep you.

**Response: Amen.**

Leader: May the Lamb of God who laid down His life for all graciously smile upon you.

**Response: Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord God order all your days and deeds in peace.

**Response: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## \*Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**Response: And also with you.**

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### Ushers

Jan & Joe Billions; Lela & Tom McIntosh; Wayne Radloff, Captain

### Service Notes

Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sins before God within the community of faith. The form of the service and the texts presented here are designed to focus our lives upon the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. While the use of ashes as a sign of mortality and penance may be new to some congregations, it has a significant history in Jewish and Christian worship. The imposition of ashes is a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

### Special Thanks

For sharing their gifts in this service and for their commitment to the confirmation process, we thank the following members of Confirmation Experience 2011:

|                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Peyton Bell     | Carolina Cannon | Ross Clay       |
| Tanner Elliot   | Will Fadel      | Samantha Holley |
| John Hudson     | Steve King      | Jack McKenney   |
| Sarah Mullen    | Anna Grace Nall | Daniel Pile     |
| Rachel Thornton |                 |                 |



7 p.m. ~ March 9, 2011

*St. Luke's Presbyterian Church*

The Church of the Word & Sacraments

### *Our Mission*

Responding to God's call and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we invite all to join us in knowing, serving, and sharing Jesus Christ here and around the world.

### *Our Vision*

To be a beacon of faith, hope, and love ~ every member  
an active disciple in Christ's ministry.

## Gathering Prayer

### In Silence and Meditation

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: God of mercy, we have come to worship,  
**Response: But we pretend.**  
Leader: Our minds are here,  
**Response: But our hearts have not yet arrived.**  
Leader: We sing the songs and say the words,  
**Response: But forget to change our lives.**  
Leader: We hear the words of faith,  
**Response: But forget the hungry and the hurt.**  
Leader: We look as though we are strong,  
**Response: But our spirits are burdened.**  
Leader: Now is the time of our salvation.  
**Response: We turn our hearts to God.**  
Leader: Now is the day of God's judgment.  
**Response: We return our lives to God's mercy.**  
Leader: Now is the hour of God's coming.  
**Response: We turn to the God of grace, that we might be made clean again.**

\*Hymn (see insert) *Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes*  
(from "Sing the Faith")

First Lesson *Isaiah 58:197*

Gospel Lesson *Psalms 51:1-17*

Meditation Phil Brown

Hymn #81 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* ST. FLAVIAN

### Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
**Response: And also with you.**  
Leader: Let us pray.

\*congregation standing, who are able.

## Imposition of Ashes

(To receive the imposition of ashes, people are invited to come forward to the communion rail.)

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. You have been marked by God.*

### Anthem

*Pilgrims' Hymn*

Stephen Paulas

Chancel Choir

Even before we call on Your name to ask You, O God, when we seek for the words to glorify You, You hear our prayer; Unceasing love, O unceasing love, surpassing all we know. Glory to the father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Even with darkness sealing us in, we breathe Your name, and through all the days that follow so fast, we trust in You; endless Your grace, O endless Your grace, beyond all mortal dream. Both now and forever, and unto ages and ages, Amen. (*Michael Dennis Browne*)

### Congregational Response and The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation.  
**Response: That we may show forth Your glory in the world.**  
Leader: By the cross and passion of our Savior,  
**All: Bring us with all Your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn #419 *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* REPTON

### \*Prayer for Preparation of Lent (in unison)

Lord, help us to see what's ahead. As we come to you during lent remind us who you are. Remind us what you desire from us. Help us to seek justice and to feed the hungry. Help us to nurture the sick and shine your light into this world. Purge us from our wicked ways. Give us the courage to walk in the way of the Lord. Create in us clean hearts and put new and right spirits within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Amen.