

GATHERING – PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**People: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits.**

Leader: Who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;

**People: Who redeems your life from the grave,
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness.**

HYMN *Just as I am, Without One Plea* UMH 357 (vv. 1-3)

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Most Holy God,

**your Son came to save sinners;
we come to this season of repentance,
confessing our unworthiness,
asking for new and honest hearts,
and the healing power of your forgiveness.**

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN *Just as I Am, Without One Plea* UMH 357 (vv. 4-6)

Romans 7:21-25 (Common English Bible)

²¹So I find that, as a rule, when I want to do what is good, evil is right there with me. ²²I gladly agree with the Law on the inside, ²³but I see a different law at work in my body. It wages a war against the law of my mind and takes me prisoner with the law of sin that is in my body. ²⁴I'm a miserable human being. Who will deliver me from this dead corpse? ²⁵Thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then I'm a slave to God's Law in my mind, but I'm a slave to sin's law in my body.

Joel 2:12-13 (Common English Bible) Pastor Sung Ho Lee

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your hearts,
with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow;

¹³tear your hearts
and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD your God,
for he is merciful and compassionate,
very patient, full of faithful love,
and ready to forgive.

SERMON

Pastor Sung Ho Lee

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* UMH 269

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday developed as a day of penitence to mark the beginning of the forty-day period of preparation for Easter. It is a particular time for new beginnings in the faith, a time for returning to the Lord. On this day, we recall our mortality and wait upon the renewing Spirit of the Lord. It is a time to put aside the sins and failures of the past and to grow, by the grace of God, more into the likeness of Christ.

While the use of ashes may be new to you, it has a significant history in Jewish and Christian Worship. From early Old Testament times, ashes have been used as a sign of sorrow, mourning, and penitence. The imposition of ashes is a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2023



ASH
Wednesday
RETURN
TO THE
LORD
YOUR
GOD

United Methodist Church of Livonia
Livonia, New York