

Sound the alarm on my holy mountain! **Joel 2:1**

A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. **Psalm 51:17**

We entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain.

2 Corinthians 5:6

Beware of practicing your righteousness before others.

Matthew 6:1

Pastor

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist

Assistants

Eva Barnett
Rebecca Phipps

Choir Director

Sheila Melendez

Accompanist

Sam Janotta

Tech Support

Mark Nutwell

To Our Guests

We are glad you are with us. Please sign the guest book by the front door and fill in a visitor's card

THE FONT OF IDENTITY

† † †

Introit 467, v. 1-2 (6x)

Give us light; give us light; give us light, O Lord.

Give us life; give us life; give us life, O Lord.

Proclamation

In life and death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God,
whom alone we worship and serve.

Call to Sackcloth and Ashes

Response 433, refrain (6x)

*Sign us with ashes, merciful God,
children of dust, as to dust we return.*

Sign us with ashes, merciful God.

Mark us and make us your own.

Prayer for Sackcloth and Ashes

Shut out the light or let it filter through
These frowning aisles as penitentially
As though it walked in sackcloth. Let it be
Laid at the feet of all that ever grew
Twisted and false ...

... Ashes to ashes. ... Go. ... Shut out the light.

+Response 294 (6x)

*Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire
that never dies away, never dies away.*

*Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire
that never dies away, never dies away.*

The Peace

THE WORD OF HOPE

† † †

Reading

Interlude

Lesson

Isaiah 58:5-9

Meditation

“Sackcloth and Ashes”

Hymn 779

“How Long, O God, Will My Prayers Be in Vain?”

THE BREAD OF LIFE

† † †

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Litany of Sackcloth and Ashes (see insert)

Imposition of Sackcloth and Ashes

Response 467, v. 4-5

*Save us now; save us now; save us now, O Lord.
Give us grace; give us grace; give us grace, O Lord.*

Offering Our Gifts

“Blessed is the Lord (Benedictus),” *Dan Forrest*

† † †

***Credo**

With believers in every time and place
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

***Sending 471**

*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.*

*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, her my prayer.
Come and listen to me.*

*The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:
all my hope comes from God.*

*The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:
God, the wellspring of life.*

***Postlude**

The hermit's cell, his sackcloth and girdle of thorns, would be luxury and indulgence compared with what I suffer.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Sackcloth and kelp soup are not required, but the Buddhist reminder of the need to live lightly on the earth is a helpful guide to the daily habits and needs of us all.

Tom Brokaw

If our suffering is known to God, why do we work so hard to hide it from the Body of Christ?

tirzahmag.com

Call to Sackcloth and Ashes

Octavia Butler

Lesson Translation

New Revised
Standard Version

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church: An Inclusive Spiritual Community. We welcome all who long for meaning, hope, and belonging. Our faith & practice are rooted in the way of Jesus and enriched by wisdom from all sources. We are committed to being and becoming people of radical compassion, working for justice and wholeness in ourselves and the world.



**“Grounded In The Spirit”
Worship in Lent 2025**

The spiritual practices of the season of Lent intentionally align the anxiety of our time with the journey of Jesus toward the cross in his own time. As he grounded his own actions in fasting, prayer, simplicity, giving, humility, conviction, and love, our worship and spiritual life invites us to do the same.

First Sunday in Lent, March 9

Grounded In The Fast — Matthew 6:17

Communion/Blessing the Confirmands/
Liturgy of Washing and Anointing

Second Sunday in Lent, March 16

Grounded In Prayer — Matthew 6:6

Communion/Prayer Stations:
Prayer Shawl, Finger Labyrinth, Prayer Beads,
Prayer Journal, and more

Ash Wednesday
Season of Lent

March 5, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Sackcloth: A Poem for Tisha B’Av

As Jacob responded to the news of Joseph’s death,
As Mordechai learned of Haman’s decree,
As the king of Ninevah proclaimed a fast that extended even to the cattle,
So she, too, wrapped herself in the harsh embrace of sackcloth.

Arms raised to the heavens,
she fasted,
tore her hair and rent her garment,
beat her breast.
Tides of anxiety, violence and despair
engulfed her world.

Strapping on her sandals,
invisible in the mass of weeping exiles,
she searched through columns of cedar
broken as her people
found a forgotten ember,
breathed it into memory, a dream.

Struggling from the rubble,
her presence undimmed but hidden as the new moon,
she stepped onto the road leading to all the worlds,
joined with the mourning women
and raised a wailing heard in every generation.

How can our eyes not run down with tears
our eyelids not flow with water
as we, Shekhinah in our midst,
journey from destruction to destruction?

Rabbi Janet Madden

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*Established 1743
Radical Hospitality • Holistic Spirituality • Engaged Compassion
We Choose Welcome*