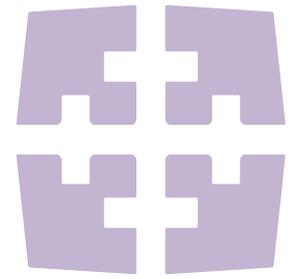


Ash Wednesday

EVENING SERVICE



Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn: Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise Him all creatures here below / Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts / Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Bring to our hearts Thy wondrous cross / that all our pride may be as dross; / for we are dust and dust remain / 'til through Thy grace our lives we gain.

Glory to Thee, my God, this night / for all the blessings of the light: / keep me, O keep me, King of kings, / beneath Thine own almighty wings. Amen.

Song: Create in me a Clean Heart

G D C G
Create in me a clean heart, O God,

D C G
and renew a right spirit within me.

C D G Em
Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord

C D G G7
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

C D G Bm Em
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,

C D G
and renew a right spirit within me.

Reflection and Thoughts

You are invited to share thoughts and reflections about the experience wearing the ashes during the day. The pastor will also share an overview of Ash Wednesday's traditions and significance.

Dwelling in Scripture: Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,

and my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance.

O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

For You have no delight in sacrifice;

if I were to give a burnt offering, You would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;

then bulls will be offered on your altar.

*As you listen to the psalm being read, pay attention to how your heart and mind receive the words. What catches your **attention**? What is happening in your **imagination**? Do you hear any **invitation** from Jesus?*

Call to Prayer (sung)

O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. When we call answer us.

O Lord hear our prayer, O Lord hear our prayer. Come and listen to us.

litany of confession

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You 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, Lord.

We have been deaf 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, Lord.

We confess to You, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to You, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to You, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to You, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to You, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to You, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of Your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let Your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for Your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of Your salvation,

That we may show forth Your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of Your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all Your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Lord, Have Mercy (sung)

Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy on us. (repeat three times)

Imposition of Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Those who wish to receive ashes as a sign of their mortality and penitence may come forward. The ashes are imposed with the following words:

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." GENESIS 3:19

Declaration of Forgiveness

Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us and, for His sake, forgives us all our sins. As a minister of the gospel, and by His promise and authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dismissal and Sending

Grant, O Lord, that what has been said with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You have begun the steps toward the cross. Now step out into the world, offering hope and healing love to all. Go in peace. **Amen.**