

Welcome

A Brief Explanation of Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. By the fourth century the Western church determined that the Lenten period of fasting and renewal should correspond to Christ's forty-day fast (Matt. 4:2), and, by counting forty days back from Easter (excluding Sundays, which remain "Feast" and Resurrection Celebration days), arrived at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter. At one time Lent was primarily viewed as a period during which converts prepared for baptism on Easter Sunday, but later the season became a general time of penitence and renewal for all Christians. Thus Ash Wednesday became the day that marked the beginning of the Lenten renewal.

The aim of Ash Wednesday worship is threefold: to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; to renew our commitment to daily repentance in the Lenten season and in all of life; and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin. Ash Wednesday worship, then, is filled with gospel truth. It is a witness to the power and beauty of our union with Christ and to the daily dying and rising with Christ that this entails.

- Excerpted from The Worship Sourcebook

What to expect in our Service This Evening:

The following service walks through excerpts from the Old and New Testament, which introduce us to what God requires of his people, and some of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. They remind us of the steadfast life of Christ and the Gospel simplicity with which he calls his followers to live. In the midst of these readings we confess our broken spirits, our contrite hearts, our empty words and promises and our need for the cleansing work of Christ. We sing with faith and we sing with hope that all is rooted in the faith and obedience of Christ. We go out from the service renewed in our Gospel hope and our desire to follow Christ in all things.

Call to Worship

Psalm 103: 1-5

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

**A: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,**

L: who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed
like the eagle's.

**A: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!**

Prayer

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.



Come Ye Sinners

Come ye sinners poor and needy
Weak and wounded sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you
Full of pity love and power

Come ye thirsty, come and welcome
God's free bounty, glorify
True belief and, true repentance
Every grace that, brings you nigh

Come ye weary, heavy laden
Lost and ruined, by the fall
If you tarry, until your better
You will never, come at all

I will arise and go to Jesus
He will embrace me in his arms
And in the arms of my great Savior
There are, ten thousand charms

Confession

Psalm 130: 1-6

**A: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!
O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.



Pardon

Psalm 130:7-8

O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.
And he will redeem Israel from all his
iniquities.

Nothing But the Blood

What can wash away my sin
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Chorus
Oh precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm Reading

Psalm 103



New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 5: 20-6: 10

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul
And bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
Who leads me into life

Homily

Romans 14: 8-9


Imposition of Ashes

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Sisters and brothers in Christ: Every year at Easter we celebrate with joy our redemption and renewal through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to make room in our lives for the Spirit of God to renew us in this mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and our need for the love and forgiveness shown to us in Jesus Christ. I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe this season of Lent, by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by practicing works of love, and by reading and reflecting on God's Holy Word.

All are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.



All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

All praise 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.

Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,
The ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, myself, and Thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

O may my soul on Thee repose,
And with sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
Sleep that may me more vigorous make
To serve my God when I awake

Teach me to live, that I may dread
The grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die, that so I may
Rise glorious at the judgment day.

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Closing Prayer

L: Gracious God, out of your love and mercy
you breathed into dust the breath of life,
creating us to serve you and our neighbors.

**A: In this season of repentance,
restore to us the joy of our salvation
and strengthen us to face our mortality,
that we may reach with confidence for your mercy,
in Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Benediction



Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 17, 2021