

The Order of Worship

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday^j

We Gather in God's Name. . .

PRELUDE

{Let us keep silent as we approach God with humbleness and somberness.}

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us worship God. God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

All: God's love endures forever.

One: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: God's love endures forever.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
(Silent Prayer)

Almighty God,
you despise nothing you have made
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and contrite hearts,
that truly repenting of our sins,
and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN: "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" #81
Lord, who through-out these forty days For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to

stay.

As Thou with Satan didst contend, And didst the victory win, O
give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to conquer sin.
And through these days of penitence, And through Thy Passion
tide, Yea, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.
Abide with us, that so, this life Of suffering over past, An Easter of
unending joy We may attain at last!

. . . to Proclaim God's Word

FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-12 **p. 688**

EPISTLE READING 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10 **p. 181**

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 **p. 5**

SERMON "Rend Your Hearts" Rev. Andy Smothers

. . . to Respond to God and God's Word. . .

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Friends in Christ,
every year at the time of the Christian Passover
we celebrate our redemption
through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.
We begin this holy season
by acknowledging our need for repentance,
and for the mercy and forgiveness
proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes.
This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life,
and marks the penitence of this community.
I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ,
to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence,
by prayer and fasting,
by works of love,
and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.
Let us bow before God, our Creator and Redeemer,
and confess our sin first silently and, then, together.

(Silent Prayer)

RESPONSIVE PSALM (from Psalm 51)

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

All: Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

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

All: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

One: And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

All: Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

One: For behold, you look for truth deep within me and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

All: Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

One: Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

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

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

All: Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.

One: Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

All: I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

One: Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

All: Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

One: Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

All: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Let us pray.

**Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,**

**that we have sinned by our own fault
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, O God.

We have not listened 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, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

we confess to you, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways

and our exploitation of other people,

we confess to you, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration

and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

we confess to you, O God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,

and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

we confess to you, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,

and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

we confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God,

for the wrongs we have done.

For our neglect of human need and suffering

and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

accept our repentance, O God.

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, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation

and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God,

and let your anger depart from us.

**Favorably hear us, O God,
for your mercy is great.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God,

you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be for us

a sign of our mortality and penitence,

and a reminder that only by your gracious gift

are we given everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

*(Please come forward silently if you wish to receive the ashes as
a symbol of our human frailty and repentance before God.*

*Alternatively, you may stay in your pew, and make a cross on
your forehead proclaiming "Remember that you are dust, and to
dust you shall return.")*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

bring us with all your saints

to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

. . . and to Be Sent in God's Name.

CLOSING HYMN: "O for a Closer Walk with God" #397

O for closer walk with God, A calm and heavenly frame, A light
to shine upon the road That leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy Dave, return, Sweet messenger of rest! I hate the
sins that made Thee mourn And drove Thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known, What e'er that idol be, Help me to
tear it from Thy throne, And worship only Thee.

So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and serene my frame;

So purer light shall mark the road That leads me to the Lamb.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

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ⁱ This service adapted from *Book of Common Worship* (1993).