

Ash Wednesday begins the Christian season of Lent. We will spend the coming days journeying with Jesus toward the cross; toward the death that ultimately brings resurrection life. Many of us will spend these coming days practicing a new spiritual discipline or giving up something that seems to be getting in the way of the life we long to live. And tonight, we come together to mark the beginning of this Lenten journey.

We come together to acknowledge our sin, to acknowledge our mortality. We come to glimpse the Christ who offers forgiveness, who offers everlasting life. As part of tonight's worship, the imposition of ashes will be offered. Ashes have been used in Christian churches to mark the beginning of Lent since at least the 10th Century, and ashes are mentioned in Scripture as a symbol of purification and repentance.

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Our Mission...We are an inviting and growing Christian presence, with a passion for living and sharing Jesus Christ.

Our Vision...To be a Christ-centered community that Equips Disciples to Make Disciples.



Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

LEADER: Most holy and merciful God...

ALL: 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 and word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

LEADER: 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.

ALL: Have mercy on us, God.

LEADER: We have not heard your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

ALL: Have mercy on us, God.

LEADER: We confess to you the gravity of our pride, hypocrisy, and impatience.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

LEADER: We confess our self-indulgent appetites and our exploitation of other people.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

LEADER: We admit our anger and bitterness, our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

LEADER: We confess our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

LEADER: We often neglect prayer and worship, and fail to commend the faith that you have given us.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

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

ALL: accept our repentance, God.

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

ALL: accept our repentance, God.

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

ALL: accept our repentance, God.

LEADER: Restore us and let your anger depart from us.

ALL: Create in us a clean heart and put a new, right spirit within us. Amen!

Congregation sings:

Change my Heart, Oh God

Make it ever true

Change my heart, Oh, God

May I be like you.

(Repeat)

You are the potter

I am the clay

Mold me and make me

This is what I pray

PRAYERS

LEADER: Led by Jesus the Christ in our journey of repentance, and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Holy God, you call us and gather us as your people to be sent in service to the world. Grant us grace so we may observe this Lenten season in prayer, fasting, and works of love. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

LEADER: You move us to cry out for justice and freedom from oppression. Shine your light on darkened places in our world and move us to work on behalf of all people everywhere. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

LEADER: Move us to care for all who know poverty of any kind; of health, of daily needs, and of spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

LEADER: Only you can turn us from our sin to live for you alone. Renew us in the covenant of baptism, that we might live in the hope of all creation, reconciled and restored.

Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

LEADER: We offer our prayers before you in silence. (Silent prayer.)

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive

those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen