

## PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who desire to be marked with ashes in the form of a cross may come to the communion rail. You may leave an offering of money on the communion rail for the church's ministry. The following hymns are sung during the imposition of ashes:*

340 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

365 Grace Greater than Our Sin Stanzas 1 and 4

402 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

### PRAYER AFTER THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

**The good in us, O Lord, comes from you.  
Out of the ashes of our lives and our world,  
you are able to form something holy and new.  
We give ourselves to you for this Lenten journey.  
Give us grace for the commitments we make.  
Bear fruit within us, that we may be holy,  
and make our lives the seeds of justice in this world.  
Amen.**

### \* BENEDICTION

With the ash of repentance,  
we have entered Lent.  
**With contrite hearts,  
we await our Lord.**  
Go forth and make preparations  
to receive the power of God.

\* HYMN 269 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

**TODAY WE LEAVE IN SILENCE.**

## WORSHIP LEADERS

*Preacher*

Dr. Brad King

*Liturgists*

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Reverend Cathy Stone

*Pianist*

Scott Davis

*12:10 p.m. Cantor*

David Allen

*7:30 p.m. Cantors*

Chelsea DeLorenz

Christina Whitford

Mario Contreras

ash  
WEDNESDAY

MARCH 2, 2022  
12:10 AND 7:30 P.M.

**REMEMBER THAT  
YOU ARE DUST...**

**...AND TO DUST  
YOU SHALL  
RETURN**



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## TODAY WE BEGIN IN SILENCE.

*Asterisks (\*) indicate stand as you are able.*

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Now is the time to return to God,

**for we are God's creation.**

Now is the time to repent of our sin,

**for we live each day with brokenness.**

Now is the time to choose our fast,

**for justice will not come on its own.**

Now is the time to depend on God's grace.

**Now we submit to God's time, God's work.**

### \* HYMN

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes



1. Sun - day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an -  
2. We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of -  
3. We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to



oth - er Lent be - gins; thus we kneel be - fore our  
fenc - es to for - give, have not lis - tened to their  
proof of hu - man need; and our lack of un - der -



Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our sins.  
trou - bles, nor have cared just how they live,  
stand - ing dem - on - strates our in - ner greed;



We have marred bap - tis - mal pledg - es, in re -  
we are jeal - ous, proud, im - pa - tient, lov - ing  
we have wast - ed earth's re - sourc - es; want and



bel - lion gone a - stray; now, re - turn - ing, seek for -  
o - ver - much our things; may the yield - ing of our  
suf - fering we've ig - nored; come and cleanse us, then re -



give - ness; grant us par - don, God, this day!  
fail - ings be our Len - ten of - fer - ings.  
store us; make new hearts with - in us Lord!

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Music: BEACH SPRING - attr. to B. F. White

### OPENING PRAYER

**We turn to you, God of life, on this first day of Lent,**

**as we recall our own mortality, pride,  
and complicity with evil and unjust systems.**

**With hearts torn open by our actions,**

**we need your guidance and your healing forgiveness.**

**Ready us to receive your mercy and grace,**

**and cleanse us of the ash of human failing.**

**Give us courage to choose the fast**

**that will produce justice for all of your beloved creatures.**

**Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE

John 16:16-23

New Testament, page 105

### SERMON

The Joy of Sorrow

### INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINES

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

the early Christians observed with great devotion  
the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection,  
and it became the custom of the Church  
that before the Easter celebration  
there should be a forty-day season  
of spiritual preparation.

As we continue this ancient practice,

we turn our hearts also to the needs of our time:  
to connect our inward spiritual work  
with the work of justice.

We remember always the example of Christ,

who wept beside us,  
who wore our sackcloth and bathed in our ashes,  
who worked for justice all of the days he walked this earth.

And we are reminded that the fruit of the spirit

is a life that exudes love,  
that pursues justice,  
and that seeks always  
after the impossible example of Christ.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church

and of the One who loves and embraces all that we are,  
to observe a holy Lent:

by self-examination, honesty, and repentance  
for your participation in racism and systems of power  
that leave no room for justice;

by prayer and fasting

from denial, despair, and defensiveness;

and by reading and meditating on God's Word,  
which calls us to a new way of being.

As a mark of our humble, mortal nature,

and to begin the hard work of honest repentance,  
let us confess our sin.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,

we confess that the sins of injustice and inequality  
distort your divine plan for our human lives.

You created us in your divine likeness,

diverse, and beautiful, and holy, and beloved.

**But too often we fail to recognize your image**

**in those we encounter;**

**forgive us, O Christ.**

And you imbued us, Beloved, with divine freedom;

so that in every decision,

we have the choice to turn toward your justice.

**But too often we fail to choose to advocate for justice**

**on behalf of others who bear your image;**

**forgive us, O Christ.**

You created us for divine abundance,

to tend and share in every garden,

so that every person is both a seed and a gardener  
of your community.

**But too often we fail to create**

**that community which includes all**

**and gives to all equal access to your abundant life;**

**forgive us, O Christ.**

**Open our eyes to distinguish good from evil.**

**Open our hearts to desire good over evil.**

**Strengthen our wills to choose good over evil,**

**so that we may create among us,**

**your beloved community.**

### SILENT PRAYER

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news:

God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ

forgives us and sets us free

to live full human lives in community.

We may go forth confident of abundant grace,

to see, with new eyes, a life beyond racial prejudice;

to imagine, with renewed fervor,

a life full of justice and mercy for all;

and to create, with a new will,

a community where all are given access

to God's abundant life.

### ANTHEM

Kyrie Eleison

Antonin Dvorak

Arr. Ruth Schram

Kyrie Eleison.

Christe Eleison.

Kyrie Eleison.

Words: Ancient Greek - Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy