

**Order of Worship
for
Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023**

ORGAN PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

**"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"
ELW 324**

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A 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 our faith journey.

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.

THE CONFESSION

Psalm 51:10-15

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of Your saving help again and sustain me with Your free Spirit. I shall teach Your ways to the wicked and sinners shall return to You. Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness, O God of my salvation. Amen!

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The Pastor will mark the sign of the cross on either your forehead or hand as you indicate when you come forward, as the following words are said by the pastor:

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return, but the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever!

For those joining us online,
feel free to, either yourself or have someone who is with you, make the sign of the cross on your forehead while saying the pastor's line.

HYMN

"Remember, Earth-born Mortal"

(tune: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded ELW 351)

**Remember, earth-born mortal, the dust from which you came,
And know that life's last portal returns you to the same!
Let ashes tell the story, from dust its lesson learn;
Beyond life's fleeting glory to dust you shall return!**

**Like flow'rs cast in the furnace, our lives are quickly spent.
To dust, O God, You turn us and call us to repent:
"Turn back, O mortals, grieving o'er your iniquity,
That, steadfast love receiving, you may My mercy see."**

**For you, O gracious Father, want not the sinner's death,
But that we, turning, rather, may breathe the Spirit's breath.
Let true repentance holy our daily lives employ,
That we may trust You solely and find in You our joy.**

**Let ashes be the token of heartfelt penitence
And of Your promise spoken to raise our bodies hence.
Let us show forth Your favor while in the world we live,
And with Your saints forever eternal life receive.**

FIRST READING

Colossians 3:8-15

**The first reading is from Paul's letter to the Colossians,
chapter three, verses eight through fifteen.**

Paul writes:

⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its Creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

SECOND READING

1st Corinthians 15:45-49

**The second reading is from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians,
chapter fifteen, verses forty-five through forty-nine.**

Paul writes:

⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the physical and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven.

GOSPEL

John 3:4-8

**From the Gospel of John,
chapter three, verses four through eight.
John writes:**

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

MESSAGE

**"From Dust to Destiny"
Rev. David Hewitt**

HYMN

**"Son of God, Eternal Savior"
ELW 655**

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Dear Heavenly Father, You know that Lent can be more than a time of fasting. It can also be a joyous season of feasting. Help us, Lord to see that Lent is a time to fast from certain things and to feast on other things. Let us all declare together the spiritual goals of Lent. O God, help us to do the following:

- **To fast from judging others, and feast on the Christ living in them.**
- **To fast from emphasis on differences and feast on the unity of all life.**
- **To fast from apparent darkness, and feast on the reality of light.**
- **To fast from thoughts of illness, and feast on the healing power of God.**
- **To fast from words that pollute, and feast on phrases that are uplifting.**

- To fast from discontent, and feast on gratitude.
- To fast from anger, and feast on patience.
- To fast from worry, and feast on confidence.
- To fast from complaining, and feast on appreciation.
- To fast from unrelenting pressures, and feast on unceasing prayer.
- To fast from bitterness, and feast on forgiveness.
- To fast from self-serving thoughts, and feast on compassion for others.
- To fast from personal anxiety, and feast on eternal hope through Jesus.
- To fast from discouragement, and feast on hope.
- To fast from thoughts of weakness, and feast on promises that strengthen and inspire.
- To fast from everything that separates us from the Lord, and feast on everything that draws us to the Lord.

AMEN.

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING

“Touch Me with Ashes”

*Presented by the King of Glory Choir
under the direction of Julie Shadinger*

As we turn toward Communion with our God, let us pray:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We prepare to receive the sacraments of Holy Communion, by remembering the words and actions of Jesus during the Last Supper.

THE LORD'S PRAYER
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.

HOLY COMMUNION
For those worshipping in-house,
we invite you to come forward if you wish.
If you prefer to take communion at your seat,
you may so.

For those joining us online,
If you are able,
we invite you to take communion where you are,
using whatever form of bread or drink is available to you, to symbolize the body
and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING
Now, may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, keep you in His grace and
peace, now and forever. Amen!

PRAYER

Gracious Lord Jesus, we give You thanks and praise for having called us to repentance, having cared for our souls with this blessed sacrament, and having brought us once again to the beginning of this Season of Lent.

By the presence of Your Holy Spirit, prosper the fruit of this Holy Supper in our lives, that we may live out the repentance we experienced this day, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

"Lamb of God"

ELW 336

THE BLESSING

On behalf of God the Father, I commend our past into His care; let us turn now to Christ for strength for the present and let us trust the Spirit to bring us to new life in the fullness of our future with God.

please depart in silence

Minister: Rev. David Hewitt

Organist & Choir Director: Julie Shadinger

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