



CHRIST
THE REDEEMER
-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
February 22, 2023

Welcome to CHRIST THE REDEEMER...

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Since the fourth century the Western church has observed the forty days before Easter (excluding Sundays) as a Lenten period of fasting and renewal that corresponds to Christ's forty-day fast (Matt 4:2).

The Lenten season has become a time of intentional penitence and renewal for Christians in anticipation of celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection on Easter Sunday. We begin this time by acknowledging our need for repentance and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The goal 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. These goals are filled with Gospel truth. Ash Wednesday is a witness to the power and beauty of our union with Christ and the daily dying and rising with Christ that this entails.

*Adapted from the Worship Sourcebook

CALL TO WORSHIP

- [L] Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.
- [P] **Before the mountains were born or you brought forth
the earth and the world,**
- [L] from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.
- [P] **You turn men back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."**
- [L] For a thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.
- [P] **You sweep men away in the sleep of death;
they are like the new grass of the morning**
- [L] though in the morning it springs up new,
by evening it is dry and withered.
- [P] **The length of our days is seventy years or eighty,
if we have the strength;**
- [L] Yet their span is but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
- [P] **Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**
- [L] Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
- [P] **Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.**

[L] May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;
establish the work of our hands for us--

[P] **Yes, establish the work of our hands.**

adapted from Psalm 90

S O N G

OUT OF THE DEPTHS

A F F I R M A T I O N O F F A I T H

Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A #'s 88-90

[L] What is the true repentance or conversion of man?

[All] **It is the dying of the old nature and the coming to life of the new.**

[L] What is the dying of the old nature?

[All] **It is to grieve with heartfelt sorrow that we have offended God by our sin,
and more and more to hate it and flee from it.**

[L] What is the coming to life of the new nature?

[All] **It is a heartfelt joy in God through Christ, and a love and delight to live
according to the will of God in all good works.**

MEDITATION ON MORTALITY

Read by Douglas Peaslee

Isaiah 58:1-12

¹“Cry aloud; do not hold back;
lift up your voice like a trumpet;
declare to my people their transgression,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet they seek me daily
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that did righteousness
and did not forsake the judgment of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they delight to draw near to God.

³ ‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not?
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with a wicked fist.
Fasting like yours this day
will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day for a person to humble himself?
Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?
Will you call this a fast,
and a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ “Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

- ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
- ⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
- ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'
- If you take away the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,
- ¹⁰ if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.
- ¹¹ And the LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail.
- ¹² And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

SILENCE & MEDITATION

"The prodigal son was resolved to come, yet he was half afraid. But we read that his father ran. Slow are the steps of repentance, but swift are the feet of forgiveness. God can run where we can scarcely limp, and if we are limping toward him, he will run toward us. Though the father was out of breath, he was not out of love."

-Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."

-Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Genesis 3:19

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

PRAYER

Led by Amanda McKrell

SONG

ABIDE WITH ME

SCRIPTURE

Read by Rev. Josh Henderson

Joel 2:1-2; 12-13

¹Blow a trumpet in Zion;
sound an alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,
²a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful people;
their like has never been before,
nor will be again after them
through the years of all generations.

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

HOMILY

Rev. Josh Henderson

Assistant Pastor

RENEWED COMMITMENT TO REPENTANCE

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

[L] Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

Almighty God, you have created us from the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be for us a symbol of our mortality and a sign of our penitence, that we may remember that it is by your grace alone that we receive the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

[P] **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

[All] **Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you, and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned, through 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. We have been deaf 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.**

[L] Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience; for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy of our lives; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of those we think more fortunate than ourselves; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment; for all lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people, and our failure to give of ourselves in love; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our dishonesty in daily life and work, our ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure to heed your call; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty; Lord have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us; Lord have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt of others, and for all uncharitable thought toward our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our negligence in prayer and worship; for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of God; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

[L] For our failure to commend the faith that is in us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

[All] **For we have sinned against you.**

Show favor to your people, O Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath, you remember mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare us; in the multitude of your mercies, look upon us and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SONG

HAVE MERCY

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[L] Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[All] **Amen.**

CONFIDENCE AND GRATITUDE FOR
CHRIST'S WORK

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

A Word about Communion: Communion, also called the Lord's Supper, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ who are members of his body, the Church, to participate.

WORDS OF INVITATION & INSTITUTION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

[L] Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

[P] **Christ has died.**
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.

[L] Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us.

[P] **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

[L] The gifts of God for the people of God.

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENT

SONG

BE THOU MY VISION

PRAYERS OF REFLECTION

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

SONG

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

BENEDICTION

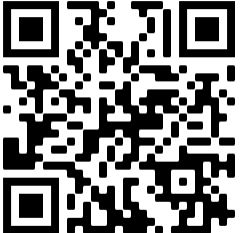
[L] May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give you a contrite heart. May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds. May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

[All] **Amen.**

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**CHRIST
THE REDEEMER**
-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church
longs to be a diverse people who gather around
and extend the table of God's grace.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:00 AM

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