



## Call to Prayer

Psalm 46:1-3

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.  
**God's love endures forever.**

## Litany of Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Holy God, we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned, by our own fault, in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have not loved you or our neighbors with our whole hearts.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have failed to do justice and to love mercy and to live humbly.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have left many things undone that would bring justice and equality to the human community.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have despoiled the natural world that you created in beauty and rich diversity.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We continually store up possessions as earthly treasure and neglect the true treasure that you offer.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

With honesty, we confess our pride, our envy of others, our anger, our self-indulgence, our contempt for those who differ from us.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We begin a journey through the wilderness of Lent with the marks of our human brokenness upon us. Accompany us on the way; forgive us as we stumble; encourage us as we learn the way of discipleship; bring us safely to the cross and the empty tomb.

### *Moment of Silence*

Restore us to wholeness and embrace us in your steadfast love.

**Turn to us in your mercy, O God, and redeem us. Amen.**

## **Scripture**

Isaiah 58:1-12

**Unison Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

**Dear God, who calls us to journey through the wilderness, we step forward with courage, called to walk the way of Christ. May we walk in humility and courage, as did Abraham when he prepared to sacrifice his son; in honesty, as did the Samaritan woman when Jesus challenged her at the well, in fortitude, as did Jesus when confronted by the Tempter.**

**As we experience our internal and individual repentance, may we also repent of the social brokenness that we have caused, the injustices and inequalities we have turned away from. Give us compassion for the mourning and disaster that others experience and show us how to be healers even as we ourselves are healed.**

**And after our forty days of reflection, repentance, and mourning, when we come at dawn comes on Easter morning, may we know the true joy of Resurrection morning.**

**With fellow believers, we pray together, Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Communion and the Imposition of Ashes**

We come forward this evening to partake in communion and we begin the journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. The ashes placed on our foreheads convey the uncertainty and frailty of our lives. May they remind us to spend the days of Lent in prayer and fasting, in examination of our lives, in doing works of love and justice, and in grounding ourselves in the words of Scripture.

**Hymn***What Wondrous Love Is This*

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**Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

*Depart in Silence and Peace*