

# Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

6:30 p.m.

*Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you.*

*The beginning of the service will be denoted by the ringing of a bell.*

## The Gathering Words

From dust we came, and to dust we shall return. While we are here, we worship the living God. We have nothing and yet possess everything. We are dying, and yet we are alive.

## The Call to Worship

We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.

**We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.**

Having received the waters of baptism,

**We come to be marked now with ashes.**

May we humble ourselves, not with a yoke of burden,

**but a mantle of freedom in Jesus name. Amen!**

## Taize Song

*Bless the Lord O My Soul*

## The Call to Confession:

Psalm 51:1, 6

God desires truth in the inward being and receives a broken spirit, the contrite heart. Seeking abundant mercy, let us confess our sins before God.

## The Prayer of Confession

Psalm 51:1

Create in us a clean heart, O God, And put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence and restore in us the joy of your salvation. From dust we came and to dust we shall return. While we are here, O God, forgive us of our sins, and teach us to use every minute from our birth to our grave for the glory of your reign.

## The Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 51:1, 4b, 10, 13, &14b

According to God's steadfast love, according to God's abundant mercy, God does not pass judgment on us the judgement we deserve. God creates in us a clean heart and gives a new and right spirit. In the grace of Jesus Christ, we return to God forgiven. Praise God for our salvation!

## Taize Song

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

## The Scripture Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

## The Reflection

## The Prayer

God of our salvation, we long to be reconciled to you. Help us to clear away any obstacle that prevents us from accepting the grace of Christ. No matter what we face in this life, increase in us knowledge and patience, kindness and holiness of spirit, genuine love and truthful speech, so that by the power of God at work in us, we may live even as we are dying and rejoice even in our sorrows. Though it may seem that we have nothing, we are reconciled to you, we possess everything, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Taize Song

*Jesus, Remember Me*

## The Litany of Ashes

We bow our heads before you, O God, aware of our sinfulness and our shortcomings. Remembering our baptism, the watermark of the cross upon us, we also receive this ashen cross upon our foreheads, another sign that in life and in death, we belong to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, crucified risen and coming again, we pray. Amen.



## 81. Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days  
For us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins,  
And close by Thee to stay.

2 As Thou with Satan didst contend,  
And didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in Thee to fight,  
In Thee to conquer sin.