

PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire to come to the communion rail to be marked with ashes in the form of a cross. 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:

402 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
357 Just As I am, Without One Plea
382 Have Thine Own Way, Lord
354 I Surrender All

PRAYER AFTER THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

**Our treasures, O Lord,
come from your hand.**

**Out of your goodness toward us
we have received so much.**

**Knowing that we came into this life with nothing,
and will go out the same way,
we give of the time, talents, and resources we have now.**

Use them, use us, as you will.

Take these 40 days as an offering of love and devotion for you.

**Give us grace to uphold the commitments we have made
and bear within us the fruit of your spirit.**

Amen.

* BENEDICTION

May God, who has forgiven us,
now make us strong for these days ahead.
May Jesus lead us, and we be found faithful to follow.
May the Spirit drive us into the wilderness,
burning away the chaff of our lives,
and purifying our hearts for all to see
and be blessed.

And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Mercy, Master, and Fire,
be with us and remain with us always!

Amen.

* **HYMN** 269 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

TONIGHT WE LEAVE IN SILENCE.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgists

Reverend Michael Mumme and Reverend Cathy Stone

Music Director/Organist

Scott Davis

HYMN

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

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



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ASH WEDNESDAY

March 1, 2017

7:00 p.m.



Will You Meet Us?

*Will you meet us
in the ashes
will you meet us
in the ache
and show your face
within our sorrow
and offer us
your word of grace:*

*That you are life
within the dying
that you abide
within the dust
that you are what
survives the burning
that you arise
to make us new.*

*And in our aching
you are breathing
and in our weeping
you are here
within the hands
that bear your blessing
enfolding us
within your love.*

TONIGHT WE BEGIN IN SILENCE.

Asterisks () indicate stand as you are able.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

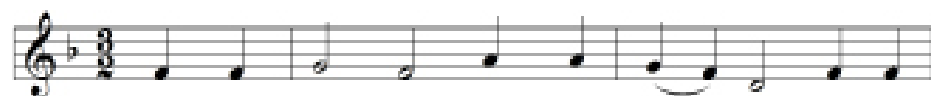
We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins,
aware of our frailty and our failings.

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

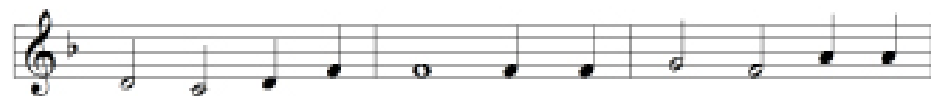
Having received the waters of baptism,
we are marked now with ashes.

**The treasures of this earth do not last;
our treasure is in heaven,
our heart's true home.**

* 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, low - ing
we have wast - ed earth's re - source - 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 - fer - ing 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!

OPENING PRAYER

We have gathered here, loving God,
to mark the season of Lent,
to begin that journey to the cross.

We have gathered here
to repent of our sins publically and privately.

We have gathered here
to be in the presence of one another,
where we can draw strength,
knowing that wherever two or three of us are gathered,
You are present among us.

Guide us throughout these forty days
as we journey deeper into Your embrace,
and as we journey to the cross,
let us put to death those things
that separate us from each other and from you.
May we know Your presence is always with us,
the power of Your transformative love is within us,
and may we know Your grace surrounds us
and is beyond us.

In the name of Jesus,
our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

SERMON Assumptions

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.

During this season,
converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.

It was also a time when persons
who had committed serious sins
and had separated themselves from the community of faith
were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness,
and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way, the whole congregation was reminded
of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed
in the gospel of Jesus Christ
and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.
To make a right beginning of repentance,
and as a mark of our mortal nature,
we confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken heart – one filled with regret and remorse –
God will not despise.

We are a broken people.

Trusting in God's mending ways,
let us confess our sins before God and one another:

Merciful God,

forgive us.

**Our will is handcuffed to sin
and we cannot break free.**

We have spoken

when we should have kept quiet.

We were silent

when we should have said something.

We acted

when we knew better.

We were still

when we know we should have moved.

For the wrong we have done,

for the good we have failed to do,

have mercy on us,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANTHEM Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God Michael Bedford

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
O cast me not away from thy presence,
and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of thy salvation,
and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Psalm 51: 10-12