

## 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

**TODAY WE LEAVE IN SILENCE.**

## WORSHIP LEADERS

*Preacher*

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

*Liturgists*

Reverend Michael Mumme and Reverend Cathy Stone

*Music Director/Organist*

Scott Davis

*Cantor*

Wendi Olinger

## 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

12:10 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.*

## TODAY WE BEGIN IN SILENCE.

*Asterisks (\*) indicate stand as you are able.*

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

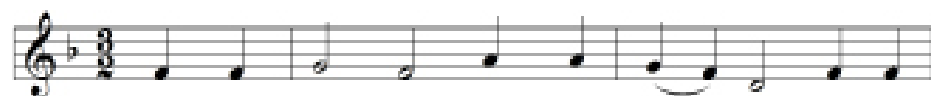
We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins,  
aware of our frailty and our failings.

**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



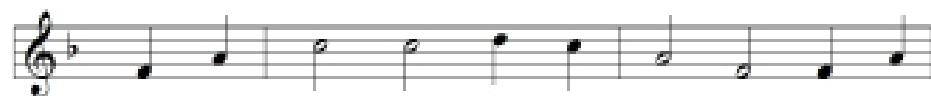
1. Sun - day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an -  
2. We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of -  
3. We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to



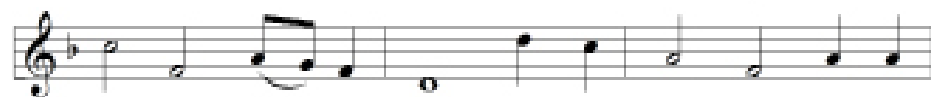
oth - er Lent be - gins; thus we kneel be - fore our  
fenc - es to for - give, have not lis - tened to their  
proof of hu - man need; and our lack of un - der -



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, lov - 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

Kinley Lange

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence, O Lord,  
and return unto me the joy of thy salvation.

Psalm 51: 10,11