



Ash Wednesday

We gather in the Spirit to begin our Lenten journey to Easter, longing for healing and hope. Let us look to Lent's familiar practices with hearts open and ready to hear, learn, ready to be blessed.

Prepare your space for Lent. Even if you will be in house for Ash Wednesday create a home altar as a Lenten focus. It can be any convenient space. Use a cross, icon or picture and candle (candles that light with batteries are perfectly fine!) Add flowers or a plant; you can create an altar or prayer space on a side table with your Lenten prayer resources with a chair nearby, or on the table where you eat.

Joining us remotely? On Ash Wednesday set a place for the Lord's Table, as simple as a napkin or cloth laid with your choice of Bread and Wine (or grape juice), or laid with best linen, cup and plate. Add a candle or candles, even flowers. If you have children in the home, they can -should!- help with creating your home church. They can set the table, draw pictures of Jesus, people they will pray for. They can make flowers, offer one another a simple blessing, making the sign of the Cross on a parents' or siblings' forehead. If you haven't done a home blessing it can be part of beginning Lent – your home is a sacred space!

Preparing the ashes for imposition remotely: Take the packet of consecrated ash and carefully place it in a small bowl or flat surface. Have a dampened paper towel or napkin handy. Ash can be messy! Lay the devotional open and ready. Add a little olive oil on the edge of the ashes. Use the outside of your thumb or forefinger to mix the ashes, and begin.

Prayer to bless the Lord's Table at home if you are joining worship remotely:

Creating God, I/ we are gathered with my/our brothers and sisters across time and place, preparing to hear your Word and receive the gift of Your Body and Blood. Be present to bless, consecrate this place and time, and nourish us to live in hope. Amen!

May our Lenten journey bless, strengthen and refresh our faith, and renew our relationship with God and one another.

CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 51 & JOEL 2

*The people respond with the verses **in bold type***

1Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
return to me with all your heart, fast
and rend your hearts and not your clothing.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; **a broken and contrite heart, You will not despise.**

According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Look away from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Blow the trumpet in Zion call a solemn assembly
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

LITANY OF CONFESSION

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 by 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. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to live the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done.

For our blindness to human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation,

and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **accept our repentance, Lord.**

Through our Lenten journey renew us, and draw us closer in community

Reform our hearts to your will and our lives to your ways

that we may be shown as disciples of Christ. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

O Lord, let the ashes of this day be a reminder to us that we are but dust.

Bless all who receive ashes this day; may they be a mark of our repentance. May all Christians everywhere keep this Lenten season in preparation for the joy of Easter. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

In house those wishing to receive the imposition of ashes may come forward by the center aisle from the organ side and then the pulpit side and return by the side aisles. Those joining by social media may make the sign of the cross at this time. If you do not/cannot sign the cross on your forehead you may sign it on the back of your hand. A time of silent prayer follows the Imposition.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made,
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.

Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins,
we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Silence for reflection follows each reading

READINGS

Isaiah 58:1-12 *The fast that God chooses*

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 *Now is the day of salvation*

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 *The practice of faith*

Please be seated

SONG ELW #592, JUST AS I AM (AT 7:00 P.M. IN HOUSE)



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

PRAYERS

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the world, our community, and all in need of healing and wholeness from God. Each petition concludes: Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to bring wholeness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Please be seated as the Table is prepared.. If you are using this as a devotional to begin Ash Wednesday you may go to the sending prayer before the Benediction. At Pastor's invitation please stand in body or spirit.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is our duty and our great joy to give you thanks, O God...

...Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen

THE COMMUNION

Those online are communed, followed by the musicians. Then the congregation comes forward by the center aisle, the organ side first, and then the pulpit side. Receive the Host (bread) from Pastor, with the words, 'The body of Christ, given for you' The assistant offers the chalice of wine for intinction, (dipping the bread into the wine) with the words: 'The blood of Christ, shed for you'. The communicant may say: Amen. Please return to your pew by the side aisle. Anyone, child or adult, who does not wish to take communion is invited to come forward, hands folded, to receive a blessing, or remain seated and commune by prayer.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are we who are called to his table.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Please be seated for prayer and reflection after you have communed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray: Merciful God: **As we go forward into the days ahead**

**may the ashes be a reminder to us and to those we meet
that we belong to your Son.**

**May our worship, prayer and penitence this day sustain us these forty days,
and bring us refreshed and renewed to the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter.
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Silence for reflection.

SONG (7:00 pm in house) #319, O Lord Throughout these Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We depart in silence.