



Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021



Welcome and Invitation to Lent

Prayer

We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all through your Son, Jesus Christ. Create in us new and honest hearts. Through the repenting of our sins may we know the joy of your mercy and the full pardon and forgiveness of all that separates us from you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us make confession to God.

Almighty God, merciful Father: I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities, with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus, God's own Son, was given to die for us and, for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn: Restore in Us, O God

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like spring-like bud and flow'r.

Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.

Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Joel 2:12-13

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

Ash Wednesday Meditation

Hymn: On My Heart Imprint Your Image

On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, king of grace,
that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase.
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me, is my life,
my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation!

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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 Benediction

The blessing of God, who brings you each day to new birth, who satisfies your thirst with living water, who breathes life into you by the Holy Spirit, be among you and + remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn: Abide with Me (Vs 1,3,5)

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes, shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.