



*Ash*  
WEDNESDAY

# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22, 2023

6:00 PM

## GATHERING

### PRAYER FOR MEDIATION

*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 the 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.*

### PRELUDE

*Prelude on HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN*

Bach / Walton

Dr. Terry McRoberts

### GATHERING WORDS

*Rev. John White*

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

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

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

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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Rev. John White*

One: Let us pray.  
*(silent 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.

**ALL: 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.**

One: Though it may seem that we have nothing,

**ALL: if we are reconciled to you, we possess everything, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN: 544** *Bless the Lord (see insert, repeat 3 times)*

TAIZE

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.*

*Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(see insert for choral responses)*

*Rev. John White*

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

**ALL: Sing stanza 1 (on insert)**

One: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

**ALL: Sing stanza 2**

One: You desire truth in my inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
**ALL: Sing stanza 3**  
One: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.  
**ALL: Sing stanza 4**  
One: Deliver me O God of my salvation, and my mouth will declare your praise.  
**ALL: Sing stanza 5**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 519 *You Are My Strength*** JERNIGAN  
*You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all.  
When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Rev. John White

**FIRST READING** *Psalm 51:1-17* Rev. John White

**SECOND READING** *2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10* Rev. John White

**LENTEN MEDITATION** Rev. John White

**ANTHEM** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* HAMBURG  
Nick Zerfoss, soloist

#### INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

One: Beloved people of God: every year at the time of the Passover we celebrate  
our redemption through the death and  
resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this  
celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.  
**ALL: We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for  
the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.**  
One: We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of  
the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community.  
You are invited, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-  
examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by  
meditating on God's Word.  
**ALL: Amen.**

*\*Congregation standing, if able*

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

One: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

**ALL: May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, for it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

One: Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

**ALL: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Breaking of the Bread & Sharing of the Cup

Prayer After Communion

**TAIZÉ SONG: 204** *Stay with Me*

STAY WITH ME

*Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.*

## RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BLESSING

One: The cross...

**ALL: We shall take it.**

One: The pain...

**ALL: We shall bear it.**

One: The joy...

**ALL: We shall share it.**

One: The gospel...

**ALL: We shall live it.**

One: The love...

**ALL: We shall give it.**

One: The light...

**ALL: We shall cherish it.**

One: The darkness...

**ALL: God shall perish it. Amen**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: 227** *Jesus, Remember Me*

TAIZE

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

*(You are invited to leave the sanctuary in silence when you are ready.)*