

# ASH WEDNESDAY



## INTRODUCTION TO THE EVENING

*On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

## **GREETING**

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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 receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Joel.

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near — <sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

*(continued on next page)*

<sup>7</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ”

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.*

## **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

*The service continues with the Hymn of the Day found on the next page.*

# HYMN OF THE EVENING: *Eternal Lord Of Love, Behold Your Church* (ELW 321)

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003  
Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551  
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## INVITATION TO LENT

Recognizing God's freely-given grace poured out for us through Christ, we come before God as this Lenten season begins, confessing our sins and leaning on the everlasting arms of Christ's mercy.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The presiding minister leads the following or another confession.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most holy and merciful God,  
**we confess to you and to one another,  
and before the whole company of heaven,  
that we have sinned by our fault,  
by our own fault,  
by our own most grievous 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, O God.**

We have shut our ears 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, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

*(continued on next page)*

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Those attending in-person may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. At this time, those attending online may use ashes to mark their forehead with the sign of a cross.*

*During this time, the assembly may meditate or read Psalm 90 in silence  
After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**  
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.  
Amen.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*The presiding minister introduces 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.**

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*The assembly stands as they are able. The presiding minister leads a concluding prayer.*

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING

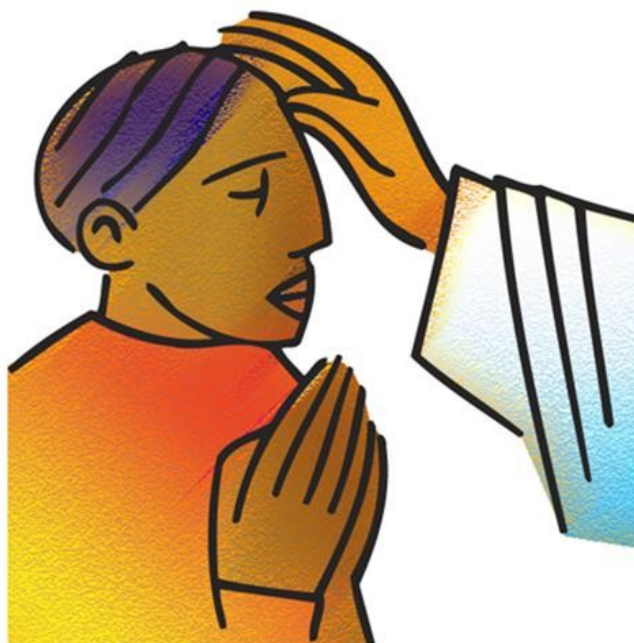
## BLESSING

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

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

**Amen.**

*The service continues with the Sending Song found on next page.*



SENDING SONG: *Come Down, O Love Divine* (ELW 804)

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine  
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn  
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear  
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
 no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890  
 Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
 Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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## **DISMISSAL**

*The assembly is sent into mission.*

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **MISSION NOTES**

*We are so glad that you are here with us for worship, and invite you to consider other ways to deepen faith and connect with the Redeemer community and the world around us - to which God calls us in loving service!*

### **Lenten Soup/Study/Worship starting Feb. 21st at 6pm!**

Our Lenten Study begins on Weds, Feb. 21st, starting at 6pm and ending at 8pm. Please join in for delicious home made soup and salad while we explore our faith utilizing the "Being With" study guide. Around 7:30pm we will move into Holden Evening Prayer, a lovely and meditative setting of Evening Vesper worship. Please contact Pastor Tobias at [tobias.song@gmail.com](mailto:tobias.song@gmail.com) or 845.594.8010 with any questions or suggestions.

### **Youth Outing: Snow Tubing**

Details forthcoming on exact timing, but mark your calendars now for our next youth outing - which will be snow tubing on Sunday, Feb. 19th! We will depart after worship and return to church after tons of fun. Please contact Rebecca Maher at [rebeccarogersmaher@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccarogersmaher@gmail.com) or at 347.228.7647

### **Jazz / Gospel Music Worship Service**

Join us on February 25<sup>th</sup> for special Sunday Jazz/Gospel Worship service. We're immensely pleased to have once again pianist William Norman, upright bassist Robert Bard, and vocalist Pastor Tobias Anderson back at Redeemer.

Please join us, in-person and online, for this trio's pre-worship concert starting at 9:10 a.m., followed by Sunday worship.

### **Special Fund Raiser For New Paltz Student Christian Center**

Many of us may not realize that there are SUNY students choosing between rent and food. Additionally, our SCC and Episcopal Campus Ministry Food Pantry regularly hears of the need for personal care items.

We will be collecting 10\$ gift cards from any local pharmacy (or monetary donations) so that SUNY students can go to get personal care items of choice. The goal is 250\$ or 25 gift cards due in March 17th. Place cards or donations in basket in corner of Narthex.

Please contact Jackie Anderson at [dogsinn136@gmail.com](mailto:dogsinn136@gmail.com) or Pastor Tobias at [tobias.song@gmail.com](mailto:tobias.song@gmail.com). Thank you!!!