

March 2, 2022
Ash Wednesday Service

Gathering - As you prepare for worship this evening, take a few moments to bring yourself before God – your present state of mind and preoccupations, as well as your desire to meet God during this time.

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer

Leader: Let us pray: Gracious 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.

People: Amen.

Scripture Lessons

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-12

Louise Hine

Psalms 51

The Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn

“Savior, When in Tears and Dust”

NCH # 185

Savior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
When repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes,
Mindful how you suffered pain that God’s love in us might reign-
Help us claim what we would be, hear our solemn litany.

By your helpless infant years, by your life of want and tears,
By your days of sore distress in the savage wilderness,
By the dread mysterious hour of the insulting tempter’s power:
Turn, O turn a favoring eye, hear our solemn litany.

By your hour of dire despair, by your agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, piercing spear, and torturing scorn.
By the gloom that veiled the skies o’er the dreadful sacrifice:
Listen to our humble cry, hear our solemn litany.

By your deep expiring groan, by the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose cold abode held in vain the rising God:
O from earth to realms of light, Christ restored in power and might,
Listen, listen to the cry of our solemn litany.

Invitation to Lent

Confession of Sin

Leader: Most holy and merciful God,

People: 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 that we have left undone.

Leader: 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.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: 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.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

People: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

“All of Us Go Down to the Dust”

several choir voices

Mark Mummert (onelicense #97957) © 2003 Augsburg Press

Those who wish to do so are invited to come forward via the center aisle to have the sign of the cross placed on their foreheads or hands. Please return to your seat by the side aisles. Raise your hand if you would like to receive ashes at your seat.

Hymn

“Again We Keep This Solemn Fast”

NCH # 187

Again we keep this solemn fast, a gift of faith from ages past,
This Lent which binds us, lovingly to faith and hope and charity.

The law and prophets from of old in figured ways this Lent foretold,
Which Christ, all ages’ Sovereign Guide, in these last days has sanctified.

More sparing, therefore, let us make the words we speak, the food we take,
Our sleep, our laughter, every sense, Learn peace through holy penitence.

Let us avoid each harmful way that lures the careless mind astray;
By watchful prayer our spirits free from scheming of the Enemy.

We pray, O blessed Three-in-One, our God while endless ages run,
That this, our Lent of forty days, may bring us growth and give you praise.

Prayer

Leader: Let us pray. 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.

Gathered into one in the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

Benediction

Leader: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthened the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Tonight’s offering is for Lancaster Theological Seminary, a seminary of the United Church of Christ located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Your support, received at the door on your way out this evening, will

help ensure that thoughtful, capable, culturally-aware leaders will continue to lead our churches and communities, joining in God's redemptive and liberating work so that all creation may flourish. For more information, go to www.lancasterseminary.edu. LTS prepared, and continues to support, many of our local church pastors.