

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday
and we are on our way
to Your Way.
O Lamb of God,
have mercy upon us and
keep us from all the smallness of our lives
that would take precedence over
kneeling in Jerusalem.
Amen.

Ann Weems

Prelude

Call to worship

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls.

For we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways.

For we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to open our hearts.

For we have also witnessed forgiveness, and we have felt its power, too.

O come, Let us worship the Lord!

***Hymn 7**

“Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth”

Bohemian Brethren’s Kirchengesang, 1566

First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Pew Bible Pg. 846

Second Reading

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 transgression, and my sin is ever before me.

Kyrie

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

Kyrie

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

Kyrie

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.

Kyrie

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.

Kyrie

“Lord Have Mercy”

Steve Merkel

Meditation

“Imposition”

Rev. Diane Hutchins

Hymn

“Sunday’s Palms are Wednesday’s Ashes”

Imposition of Ashes

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

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

May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

(All are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

If you choose not to come forward, please observe this time in silent prayer.)

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hymn 81

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Day’s Psalter, 1562

Benediction

Go into this season of Lent knowing that God forgives you.

We go in God’s peace.

Go into this season of Lent knowing that God calls you to become a new person.

We go with hope in our hearts.

Go into this season of Lent yearning to live in response to God’s never-ending love.

We go in God’s peace.

Amen.