

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Leader: Repent, and believe the gospel.

PRAYER

*HYMN

“JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS”

NO. 301

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|---|---|
| 1. Jesus, keep me
near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from
Calvary's mountain. | 2. Near the cross,
a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning
star sheds its beams
around me. |
| 3. Near the cross!
O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk
from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. | 4. Near the cross
I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach
the golden strand
just beyond the river. |

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*GOING FORTH

Please depart in silence



February 22, 2012

Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: We confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focuses on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. Ash Wednesday represented by gray, the ashes, is especially appropriate. Dark earth colors or any somber hues are also appropriate.

The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and gave the day its name. It is traditional in some churches to save the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday service and burn them ahead of time to produce the ashes.

As the ashes are imposed, the following may be said by the worship leader: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Or "Repent, and believe the gospel".

The journey towards Easter and through Lent has begun. The Ash Wednesday Service serves to help us begin this journey.

ENTRANCE***GREETING**

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

All: **God's mercy endures forever.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins, and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

"JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA"

NO. 357

1. Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,

2. Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee whose blood can cleanse each
spot,

3. Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,

Refrain: O Lamb of God,
I come, I come.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10

***HYMN**

"BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS"

No. 297

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide
heat, and the burden of the day.

2. Upon the cross of Jesus
mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One
who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears
two wonders I confess:
the wonders of redeeming love
and my unworthiness.

3. I take, O cross,
thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine
than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

***GOSPEL LESSON**

MATTHEW 6:1, 16-21

MESSAGE

REV. PINSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own 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.

All: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to our call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

All: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

All: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

All: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

All: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

All: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

All: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

All: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who have come after us,

All: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

All: **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

All: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

All: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection. Amen.**