



Ash Wednesday 2023 Abbreviated Service

Call to Worship

One Voice: God sent Christ into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world would be saved through him.

People: God's love endures forever.

One Voice: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change;

People: though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, God's love endures forever.

One Voice: Let us worship God.

Evening Lenten Prayer

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy, in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

Lenten Reflection

Is This The Fast I Choose?



Pastor Scott Walters

Psalm 51

Liturgist: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Liturgist: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

People: 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.

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

People: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Liturgist: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

People: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

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

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Liturgist: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

People: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Liturgist: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

People: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

Liturgist: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

People: For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

Liturgist: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

All: Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us.

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 eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



Marking With Ashes

Blessing