



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**A SERVICE OF PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS**

February 26, 2020

*Welcome to our Ash Wednesday service. As we gather silently, we invite you to pray:*  
*Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

*\*\*All hymns this evening can be found in the purple hymnal, "Glory to God."\*\**

### ***Gathering Music***

#### ***Call to Worship***

We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins,  
aware of our frailty and our failings.

**We come seeking God's mercy,  
acknowledging our mortality.**

Having received the waters of baptism,  
we are marked now with ashes.

**The treasures of this earth do not last;  
our treasure is in heaven,  
our heart's true home.**

#### ***Prayer for Illumination***

***Scripture Reading*** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

***Sung Response*** #417 Lord Jesus, Think on Me, verse 1

***Responsive Scripture Reading*** Psalm 51 *(see insert)*

***Sung Response*** #417 Lord Jesus, Think on Me, verse 2

***Scripture Reading*** 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

***Sung Response*** #417 Lord Jesus, Think on Me, verse 3

***Scripture Reading*** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

***Sung Response*** #417 Lord Jesus, Think on Me, verse 4

## *Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline*

*The Sung Confession* #445      God, How Can We Forgive

### *Declaration of Forgiveness*

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**In Jesus Christ, we all have peace.**

### *The Imposition of Ashes*

Creator God, who fashioned us from the dust of the earth, bless these ashes that they may be a sign of our mortality, and a reminder of your forgiving grace through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Those who desire may come forward for the imposition of ashes. The pastor dips her thumb into the ashes and makes a sign of the cross on the forehead of each person.*

*Sung Response*      #824      There Is a Place of Quiet Rest

### *Intercessions, Thanksgiving and Communion*

*Invitation to the Lord's Table*      (see insert)

### *The Great Thanksgiving*

#### *The Lord's Prayer (ecumenical)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.  
Amen.

### *Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People*

### *Prayer after Communion*

**God of the wilderness journey, thank you for giving us what we need for all the roads we travel. For the bread that nourishes our spirits and the cup that gladdens our hearts, we thank you. As we meet others on the way, may our lives and words, by the power of your Spirit, provide testimony to your gracious and faithful provision. Amen.**

*Hymn*                      #450              Be Thou My Vision

### *Sending Forth*

May God, who has forgiven and fed us,  
now make us strong for these days ahead.  
May Jesus lead us, and we be found faithful to follow.  
May the Spirit drive us into the wilderness,  
burning away the chaff of our lives,  
and purifying our hearts for all to see  
and be blessed.  
And may the blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Mercy, Master, and Fire,  
be with us and remain with us always!

Amen!

Go in peace, to love and serve God and your neighbor.

### **Thanks be to God!**

*Sung Response*              #166 Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Days