

# ASH WEDNESDAY

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## ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

February 18, 2015

12:00 p.m.

*The aim of our Ash Wednesday worship service is threefold:  
to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a Savior;  
to renew our commitment to daily repentance in all of life;  
and to remember with confidence and gratitude  
that Christ has conquered death and sin.*



## CONTEMPLATE YOUR NEED

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*You are invited to pray and reflect on the following prayer as you prepare for worship.*

Almighty and everlasting God, You hate nothing You have made  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.

Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,

that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may obtain of You, the God of all mercy, complete remission and forgiveness  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### ORGAN PRELUDE

*Samuel Metzger, organ*

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 51:15-17 ..... Michael G. Stokke

Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

**A broken and contrite heart, You, God, will not despise.**

✠HYMN OF REPENTANCE: "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" ..... ARISE

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and pow'r.**

*I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior, O, there are ten thousand charms.*

**Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.**

**Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him.**

✠READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH ..... Genesis 3:17-19

And to Adam he said,  
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you,  
'You shall not eat of it,'

**Cursed is the ground because of you;  
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;**

Thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

**By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread,**

Till you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;

**For you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."**

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ..... ARISE

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.**

*I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior, O, there are ten thousand charms.*

## COMMIT TO A LIFESTYLE OF REPENTANCE

A CALL TO REPENTANCE ..... Psalm 51:1-4

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.  
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

### CORPORATE PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

**Merciful God, You dwell in the high and holy place,  
and also with those who are of a contrite and lowly spirit.  
Grant us repentant hearts as we confess  
our sins of fear and pride, anger and self-pity.  
Lift the burden they place on our shoulders.  
Wash us of our guilty stains and restore to us the joy of salvation.  
Grant us Lord  
    a deep humility,  
    a well-guided zeal,  
    a burning love  
    and a single eye.  
For we make our prayer in the strong name of Jesus, Amen.**

### SILENT PRAYERS OF REPENTANCE

#### **Deep Humility (vs. pride)**

Have I looked down on anyone?  
Have I been too stung by criticism?  
Have I felt snubbed and ignored due to my wounded pride?

#### **Well-guided Zeal (vs. anxiety)**

Have I avoided people or tasks that I know I should face?  
Have I been anxious and worried?  
Have I failed to be circumspect, or have I been rash and impulsive?

#### **Burning Love (vs. indifference)**

Have I spoken or thought unkindly of anyone?  
Am I justifying myself by caricaturing someone else in my mind?  
Have I been impatient and irritable?  
Have I been self-absorbed, indifferent, and insensitive to people?

#### **A Single Eye (vs. distraction)**

Am I doing what I do for God's glory and the good of others,  
or am I being driven by fears, need for approval, love of comfort  
and ease, need for control, hunger for acclaim and power,  
or the fear of other people?  
Am I looking at anyone with envy?  
Am I giving in to even the first motions of lust or gluttony?  
Am I spending my time on urgent things  
rather than important things because of these inordinate desires?

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON..... Romans 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things?  
If God is for us, who can be against us?  
He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all,  
how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

# CELEBRATE THE LORD'S PROVISION

READING FROM THE EPISTLES .....Hebrews 12:1-3

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Running the Race*

Gerry A. Peak

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*All those who have publicly professed their faith and joined a Christian church as a communing member are warmly welcomed to receive communion today. Non-communing worshipers are encouraged to contemplate the love of Jesus Christ during this time. For those unable to come forward for communion, please raise your hand and an elder will serve you in your seat.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION HYMN: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" .....HAMBURG

**When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God:  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down:  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

✦SONG OF GRATITUDE: "Give Thanks" .....Don Moen

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich."  
Because of what the Lord has done for us:**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich."  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.**

**Give thanks.**

✦BENEDICTION

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give you a contrite heart.

May Christ, who bore our sins in His body on the tree,  
heal you by His wounds.

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

**Amen.**

ORGAN POSTLUDE

✦Indicates congregation standing

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