



# Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

## Prelude

**My Chains are Gone/Amazing Grace**

Middle School Ensemble

## Welcome

Rev. Dustin Woods

Dear people of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of grievous sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, let us now sing to the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

**Hymn** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" [MORNING SONG]

**No. 269**

## Message

Rev. Darren Brandon

### Confession & Absolution

What do I need to turn away from and turn toward this Lent? You are invited to write on the card any hindrance, burden, fear, sin or anything else that is a barrier to growing deeper in your relationship with God and others? As you come to receive the ashes please leave your card in the basket. It will be burned in the fire at the end of the service.

Let us confess our sin to God in silence.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create in us new hearts, that, lamenting our sins and shortcomings, we may receive mercy, forgiveness and peace from you.

Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.

This proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

**Apostles' Creed**

**No. 881**

**Hymn**

**"Come, Ye Sinners Poor and Needy" (vss 1 and 3)**

**No. 340**

### **Prayer Over the Ashes**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**Instructions:** Come forward to the table and leave your card in the basket. On the table you will also find a small container of ashes. You are invited to place the ashes on your forehead or the back of your hand in the sign of a cross. You may also choose to have a family member do it for you or someone else in your Pandemic Bubble. Once you have received the ashes please return to your seat. After everyone has received ashes we will recess to the steps of the church where we will burn our cards.

### **Recession to the fire**

As we gather around the fire pit, we offer to God those things which are a barrier to drawing near to God and one another. We release them in the burning of these cards.

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As you go, go forth in the knowledge of the connectedness of all things – that Christ has filled all things with his presence, and that even the dust on our foreheads, which will become the dust of our bodies, is sanctified by his own participation in them. Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. **Amen.**

