

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 14, 2024 7:00 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY



HEARTS & ASHES

Please make sure you have stopped by the table with cutout hearts and ashes/marker.

We invite you to make one heart for yourself to take home and a second heart for you to offer up during tonight's service.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

PRELUDE

Sergei Kvitko

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blow the trumpet! Call a solemn assembly! Gather the people!

Leader: Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, including nursing infants. Let even the bride and bridegroom rise from their nuptials. Gather everyone!

Leader: And you ministers; Weep! Pray to the Lord on our behalf, saying, "Spare your people, O Lord. Don't let others look at us and wonder where you are, O Lord. Spare, oh spare, your people!"

Leader: "Return to me with all your heart," says the Lord. "Yet even now, return to me! Rend your hearts with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

People: **O Lord, we turn to you. Turn now to us, and forget not your heritage, for you are God – gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: Almighty God: you love all your children, and do not want to see them suffer the consequences of their sins. Help us to face up to ourselves, admit we are in the wrong, and raise our eyes with confidence to your mercy; in Jesus Christ, the Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #729 Lord, I Want To Be A Christian (Verse 1)
*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart (in my heart), in my heart (in my heart),
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

WORDS OF INVITATION TO ENTER INTO ASH WEDNESDAY CONTRITION

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

We are here on this Ash Wednesday to repent of our sins, intercede on behalf of a sinful world, and seek God's face in the renewal of our lives and of this world. Today marks the beginning of Lent, as part of our service tonight we will have an extended period of confession and an examination of our lives in the light of God's grace.

As a sign of your penitence, you are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes, as we trace the sign of the cross on your forehead with ashes, an ancient symbol of humility and grief.

HYMN #729 Lord, I Want To Be A Christian (Verse 2)
*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart
In my heart (in my heart), in my heart (in my heart),
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

Leader: “Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins be as scarlet I shall make them white as snow.” (Isaiah 1:18)
In penitence and faith in the goodness of God who wants good things for us, let us confess our sins.

EXAMINATION OF INDIVIDUAL SINS

WE WILL TAKE A FEW MINTUES FOR YOU TO JOURNAL OR LIST ON YOUR 3X5 CARD

WRITING PROMPTS

SINS AGAINST OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LORD

- Pride, self-satisfaction, self-righteousness, hard-heartedness
- Worship: more performance than true devotion, controlled by fear and anxiety rather than by faith
 - Holding back our money in fear of not having enough in the future
 - Too little time spent one-on-one with my Lord
 - Neglect of prayer, the Word, spiritual direction
 - Idolatry—gaining meaning from things instead of from God
 - Hypocrisy, inauthenticity
 - Joyless labor in God’s house instead of joyful work by God’s side
 - Allowing the world to change us instead of our changing the world
 - Not giving God first consideration in all decisions
 - Slowness to acknowledge and confess my sins...

SINGS AGAINST OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER

- Lack of love for each other; little true connection between us
- Demanding total agreement; allowing others to be demonized for holding different opinions
 - Judgmental spirit, lack of grace, rigidity, being overly demanding
 - Talking more than listening
 - Gossiping
 - Complaining
- Not taking in what the other is saying and weighing it in Holy Spirit and instead reacting immediately against it
 - Leaders not bringing prophetic challenges to people

SINS AGAINST OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

- Lack of sacrificial service to the poor and oppressed

- Separating ourselves from the world so that we don't see social problems that keep people oppressed and captive
 - Weak engagement with those who set social policies
- Lack of passion for those who don't know Jesus; failure to build bridges of relationships through service
- Failure to call others to live in accord with God's sovereign rule as characterized by love and justice and shalom for all
 - Lack of vision for the church in our city/region
 - Weakness in intercessory prayer for others and our ministries
 - Lack of equal respect for all cultures, and between each
- Consumer mentality, allowing our possessions to own us instead of investing in Kingdom work
 - Laziness – "Let someone else do it."
- Failure to live as good stewards of the earth and all God has provided for us to share with one another
- Acceptance of and acquiescence to social sins that enslave and hurt others—pornography, slave labor practices, domestic violence, genocide, war, limiting access to food, housing, healthcare, etc.
- Refusing to blow the whistle on social and personal sin so that others may know God's love for all...

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS AND PRAYER

LENTEN FORM FOR SELF-EXAMINATION

We all fall short....let us take time to examine and prepare to repent for the sins of:

Pride—putting self in the place of god as the center and objective of our life. Pride is the refusal to recognize our status as creatures, dependent upon God.

Irreverence—deliberate neglect of God's worship, or contentment with a perfunctory participation in it. Manifest as cynicism toward the holy or as use of Christianity for personal advantage

Sentimentality—satisfaction with pious feelings and beautiful ceremony without striving for personal holiness

Distrust—refusal to recognize God's wisdom and love. Undue worry, anxiety, scrupulosity, or perfectionism. Attempts to gain or keep control of our life in various ways

Disobedience—rejection of God's known will. The refusal to learn God's nature through scripture. Breaking confidence by irresponsibility, treachery, and unnecessary disappointment of others. Breaking legal or moral contracts.

Impenitence—Refusal to search out and face up to our sins, or to confess them before God. Self-justification by believing our sins to be insignificant, natural, or inevitable; by refusing to apologize; by being unwilling to forgive ourselves.

Vanity—Failure to credit God and others for their part in our lives. Boasting, exaggeration, ostentatious behavior, undue concern over “things”

Arrogance—Being overbearing, argumentative, opinionated, obstinate

Resentment—Rejection of talents, abilities, or opportunities God and others give us. Rebellion, hatred of God or human beings. Cynicism.

Envy—Dissatisfaction with our place in God’s order of creation. Manifests itself in jealousy, malice, and contempt for others or others’ things

Covetousness—the refusal to respect the integrity of other creatures, expressed in the accumulation of material things to prove self-worth, the use of others to personal advantage, or in the quest for status and power at the expense of others

Avarice—manifested in inordinate ambition or domination of others. The waste of natural resources or personal possessions. Extravagance or living beyond our means. Manifest in undue protection of our things. Stinginess, which can deprive others of life and thus kill them.

Gluttony—overindulgence of natural appetites for food and drink, and by inordinate quest

for pleasure or comfort. Manifest in intemperance and lack of discipline

Lust—misuse of sex through seeing others as objects for our own pleasure without regard for their desires. Includes unchastity, immodesty, adultery, prudery.

Sloth—the refusal to respond to opportunities for growth, service, or sacrifice. Laziness in spiritual, mental, or physical duties. Neglect of family. Indifference to injustice or the world’s suffering. Neglecting the outcast or person in need.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

58 Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every

yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

PSALM

Psalm 51:1–17

To be read responsively

Have mercy on me, O God,
because of your unfailing love.
Because of your great compassion,
blot out the stain of my sins.

**²Wash me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.**

³For I recognize my rebellion;
it haunts me day and night.

**⁴Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.
You will be proved right in what you say,
and your judgment against me is just.**

⁵For I was born a sinner—
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

**⁶But you desire honesty from the womb,
teaching me wisdom even there.**

⁷Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

**⁸Oh, give me back my joy again;
you have broken me—
now let me rejoice.**

⁹Don't keep looking at my sins.
Remove the stain of my guilt.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a loyal spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not banish me from your presence,
and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and make me willing to obey you.**

¹³ Then I will teach your ways to rebels,
and they will return to you.

¹⁴ **Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves;
then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.**

¹⁵ Unseal my lips, O Lord,
that my mouth may praise you.

¹⁶ **You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one.
You do not want a burnt offering.**

¹⁷ The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit.
You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

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O God the Father, creator of heaven and earth,
Have mercy on us.

O God the Son, redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us.

O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,
Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons and one God,
Have mercy on us.

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forebears.

Spare us, good Lord,

Spare your people whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.

Spare us, good Lord,

From all spiritual blindness;

from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy;

from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all deadly sin;

and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism;

from hardness of heart, and contempt for your Word and commandments,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From earthquake and tempest;
from drought, fire, and flood;
from civil strife and violence;
from war and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation,
by your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
and by your proclamation of the kingdom,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your bloody sweat and bitter grief;
by your cross and suffering; and by your precious death and burial,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In our times of trouble;
in our times of prosperity;
in the hour of death, and on the day of judgment,

Good lord, deliver us.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

please come forward as you are able

CHORAL ANTHEM

“O Lord, Correct Me” tune by G.F. Handel

Chancel Choir

O Lord! Correct me, not in Thine anger; have mercy on me, and blot out all my sins.

O wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cast me not away, away from Thy presence;

Take not Thy Holy Spirit, Thy Spirit from me.

O Lord! Correct me, not in Thine anger; have mercy on me, and blot out all my sins,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious god,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.**

**Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,**

**and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgement.
set us free from a past we cannot change;
open us to a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ our lord. amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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May almighty God, who of great mercy has promised to forgive all who truly repent and in true faith turn unto the Lord, strengthen you in all goodness and bring you at last into the fullness of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO GIVE

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

HYMN #729 Lord, I Want To Be A Christian (Verse 3)

*Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart
In my heart (in my heart), in my heart (in my heart),
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

⁶As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors,

and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

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⁶“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

Prayer of Intercession

Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Leader: It is truly right an our greatest joy to give thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.
People: You are our God, and we are the creatures of your hand. You made us from the dust of the earth, breathed us in the breath of life, and set us in your world to love and serve you.
Leader: Even when we turned away from you, our Maker, you continued to love us, calling us through prophets to turn again to you in obedient love.

Leader: You sent Jesus to free us from the tyranny of sin. He lived as one of us, fully human, a creature full of your Spirit, who taught us your ways.
People: Baptized as one of your own,
Leader: death by torture could not reduce him to nothing.
People: By his rising, he released us from bondage to sin,
Leader: freeing us to live as new people, citizen of the Kingdom of God.
People: Remembering all that Jesus taught us, we come to this table to serve one another in thanksgiving for all you've done for us, offering ourselves as a living sacrifice devoted to following in your way.
Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and juice that we may be united in true communion with you, one another, and all the saints of all times and places who forever sing your praise. Keep us one in Christ as we pray for the world as he taught us to pray saying:

Lord's Prayer (**unison**)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Unison Prayer of Commitment

Thanks to your grace in Jesus Christ, these bones live to proclaim your greatness, O Lord. You love us to the end, feeding us from your own hand scarred with love. You have placed your Spirit within and among us to set our lives spinning free into the New Creation according to your designs. May we go forth to serve as vessels of praise in all we do as we rise from this table to serve a hurting world in your name, and to your glory we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

#729 Lord, I Want To Be A Christian (Verse 4)

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart

In my heart (in my heart), in my heart (in my heart),

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

POSTLUDE

Sergei Kvitko

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