

ASH WEDNESDAY



the heart of darkness

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 14, 2024
“The Heart of Darkness”

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

HYMN

Create in Me

956

INVOCATION

- P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

WORDS OF CONFESSION – Psalm 51

- P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your loving kindness;
C: **in Your great compassion blot out my offenses**
P: Wash away all my iniquity
C: **and cleanse me from my sin.**
P: For I know my transgressions,
C: **and my sin is ever before me.**
P: Against You, You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight.
C: **Indeed, I have been sinful from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**
P: Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
C: **wash me, and I shall be white as snow.**
P: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
C: **Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**
P: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
C: **and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

- P: The practice of receiving ashes as we begin the season of Lent reminds us of our sinful nature. Although these ashes can wear off or be washed away, the greater mark of sin is buried deep within and requires a cleansing of another kind. I invite you to come forward to receive these ashes, either on your forehead or the back of your hand, as a reminder of the stain of sin in our lives. You may also use this time for your own personal meditation and self-reflection.

ANTHEM 11:00a
7:00p

A View of the Cross
Lead Me to Calvary

Karen Manges
Men’s Choir

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God have mercy on me,

C: **forgive all my sins, and strengthen in me all goodness by the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ my Lord.**

(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that we may turn from our sin and live. Therefore, with the promise that God's Word never fails and His promises are new every morning, be assured this day that your sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PSALM OF THE DAY – PSALM 6

(sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my soul is in anguish.

Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

(sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

I am worn out from groaning. My eyes grow weak with sorrow.

Away from me, all you who do evil, for the Lord has heard my weeping.

The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer.

(sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

(sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Almighty and ever-living God, You hate nothing You have made and You forgive the sins of all who repent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from You, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING		Exodus 10:21-29
ANTHEM 11:00 7:00	This Dust Hear Our Cry, O Lord	DUET Adult Choir
GOSPEL READING		Matthew 15:1-20

HYMN Chief of Sinners Though I Be (stanzas 1-5) **611**

SERMON "The Heart of Darkness" **Pastor Goff**
Exodus 10:21-29 and Luke 23:44-49

NICENE CREED

OFFERING

**OFFERTORY 11:00a
7:00p** Jesus Paid It All **Karen Manges**
Lord Have Mercy **Adult Choir**

PRAYERS/THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	
WORDS OF INSTITUTION	
THE PEACE OF THE LORD	
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS	
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	621
The Lamb	547
Jesus Refuge of the Weary	423
Jesus Sinners Doth Receive	609
By Grace I'm Saved	566

BENEDICTION

- P:** May God the Father, give to you a contrite heart. May God the Son, Jesus Christ, heal your soul by His wounds. May God the Holy Spirit, speak to you words of pardon and peace.
- C:** **Amen.**

HYMN In the Cross of Christ I Glory **427**
(stanzas 1-4)

SILENT PRAYER

Almighty God, we are dust and to dust we shall return, yet even in ashes and dust there is hope. Marked with the sign of the cross in our Baptism, we thank You for the gifts of forgiveness and new life You have given to us through Jesus Christ. Amen.