



Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024

“One day the Eternal God scooped dirt out of the ground, sculpted it into the shape we call human, breathed the breath that gives life into the nostrils of the human, and the human became a living soul.”

Genesis 2: 7 (The Voice)

Welcome and Announcements

- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
– Trinity is an Affirming Congregation

Introit 107 "Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes" vs. 1

Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins;
Thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.
We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray;
Now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Call to Worship

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And on the whole world, peace!

Hymn 108 "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights" vs. 1,5,6

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.

So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!

Rejoice, O sons and daughters!
Sing and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!

Readings and Responses

Ashes, a sign of creation

Reading - Genesis 2:4b-9

Silence

Response Psalm 8 (VU 732)

Refrain -

O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!
From the lips of infants and children your praises
reach up to the heavens.

**You have set up a stronghold against your foes,
to quell the enemy and the avenger.**

Refrain -

O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

When I look to the heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their places,
**what are we mortals that you should be mindful of us,
mere human beings that you should care for us?**

Refrain -

O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

You have made us little less than divine, and crowned us with glory
and honour.

**You have made us rulers over all your creation,
and put all things under our feet,
all sheep and cattle, all creatures of the wild,
the birds of the air and the fish in the sea,
and all that make their way through the waters.**

Refrain -

O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

Ashes, a sign of mortality

Reading *Genesis 3:8-13, 17-19*

Silence

Hymn MV 79 "Spirit, Open My Heart"

***Refrain - Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.***

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.

Refrain - *Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.*

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.

Refrain -

May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.

Refrain -

Ashes, a sign of repentance

Reading *Isaiah 58:1-12*
Silence

Response Psalm 130 (VU 853)

Refrain -

*Out of the depths I cry to you;
my hope is in your promise true.*

Out of the depths have I called to you.

O God, hear my cry!

Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.

If you should keep account of what is done amiss,

O God, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with you,
therefore we will honour you.**

Refrain -

Out of the depths I cry to you;

my hope is in your promise true.

I wait for you, God;

my soul waits, and your word is my hope.

**My soul waits for God more than the watchers for morning,
more than watchers for morning.**

O My People, wait in hope,

for with God there is love unfailing.

**With God is great power to redeem,
to redeem you, O My People, from all your sin.**

Refrain -

Out of the depths I cry to you;

my hope is in your promise true.

Ashes in the sign of the Cross

Reading *Matthew 16:21-26*

Silence

Hymn 436 "Abide With Me" vs. 1,3,4

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need your presence every passing hour;
what but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like yourself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I have no fear with you at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still, if you abide with me.

The Ritual of Ashes

Anthem "As Now We Take The Sacrament" (Rowley)

Communion

Invitation

Thanksgiving and Praise

Words of Institution

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, bless these gifts that earth has given and human hands have made.

**By our eating and drinking,
fill us with the joy of Christ**

**and keep us persevering in his way,
honouring our bodies,
serving our neighbour,
and praising your name.**

Prayer After Communion

Let us give thanks.

**Thank you, God,
for life in the Spirit of Jesus,
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendours of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our
own.**

**Give us the fruits of this holy communion:
oneness of heart, love for neighbours,
forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day,
and life that never ends.**

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 the power and the glory,
 for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Blessing, Sending, and Peace

And you will be called oaks of righteousness,
 the plantings of the Lord to display God's glory.
You shall build up the ancient devastation,
 repair the ruined cities,
 and heal the despair of many generations.

**And I shall greatly rejoice in the Lord;
 for God has clothed me in garments of salvation,
and covered me with a robe of righteousness!**

**As the earth brings forth its shoots,
 so God will cause justice and praise
to spring up before all nations!**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
 Thanks be to God!

Postlude "Nearer My God To Thee" (arr. Hobson)