



## February 17, 2021 Ash Wednesday

### Worship Participants

Minister: Pastor Lamont Koerner  
Organist/Pianist: Brian Voss  
Hymn Leader: Janet Beckman

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

### Prelude

### Welcome & Announcements

**Hymn:** *ELW 319 - O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days, verses 1 & 4*

### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, we find you in the heat of fire and in the dust of ash. Remind us that we are all made of dust – dust that will someday be restored. As we journey with you toward the cross, open our hearts to the power of your transforming love. We are your children and we are glad that you are near. **Amen.**

**Reading:** Psalm 51:1-17

**Gospel:** Mark 9:30-37

### Message

**Hymn:** *ELW 793 - Be Thou My Vision, verses 1 & 2*

### Introduction to Lent

### Confession of Sin

Leader: Today we acknowledge who we really are:

**All: We are shining souls living within fragile bodies.**

L: While our minds freely soar among the stars,

**All: our bodies are rooted in earth's soil.**

L: In this era of overflowing, mind-inflating advances, like; super speed fiber optics, mind-hive think-tanks, social networks, crypto-currencies, artificial intelligences, Tesla, Google, and so much more, it is essential that we pause and remember:

**All: We depend on our roots.**

L: We depend on our roots, our bodies: these bodies that are made of water, carbon, and other bits found in a handful of soil.

**All: We forget.**

L: We forget that we are dust.

**All: We forget that we are dust and dust we shall become again one day.**

L: Remembering now that God created us from the soil, let us take a moment to mediate on our fragile bodies, the roots we've forgotten, and the moments we're sorry for. (*Quite Meditation*)

L: Restoring God,

**All: I confess to you my brokenness. I forget my body. I injure the earth. I neglect my neighbors. I justify my mistakes. I forget that you've created me from good soil. Give me a new beginning, O God. Forgive me my sins. I want to be whole; wholly free and wholly rooted. Amen.**

### **Imposition of Ashes**

All who desire to receive this sign of repentance and renewal may come to receive the ashes in person, in the south side parking lot of the church from either Noon – 1:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Please watch the service before coming to receive the ashes. Remember to wear a mask and to remain in your vehicle. Those applying the ashes will be masked and will be wearing a plastic/rubber glove.

If you are at home with others, you may simply use a few drops of olive oil or cooking oil, you do not need to have ashes. Simply dab your finger or thumb into the oil and as you trace the sign of the cross on the other person's forehead say these words: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

If you are alone during this time, dab your finger into a drop or two of olive oil or cooking oil and, as you trace the sign of the cross on your forehead, say these words, Lord, I remember that I am dust and to dust I shall return.

(Following the Imposition of Ashes)

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world. By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrections.

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **Communion - Words of Institution**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **Blessing/Prayer**

#### **Blessing and Sending**

#### **Postlude**

For readings, refer to your Bible or use an online Bible source, such as [Bible Gateway](https://www.biblegateway.com/). [NOTE: The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is used.]