



ASH WEDNESDAY
February 17, 2021

Gathering

Call to Worship

Leader: "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your hearts, and not your garments."

People: Return to the Lord, for God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and filled with compassion and love.

Prayer of Invocation

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Meditation

A Time for Silent Reflection

Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;

8

I 'Tis once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Prayer of Confession

Save us, O God, from the blindness, which is not even aware that it is sinning; From the pride, which cannot admit that it is wrong; From the self-will which can see nothing but its own way; From the self-righteousness, which can see no flaw within itself; From the callousness, which has sinned so often that it has ceased to care; From the defiance, which is not even sorry for its sins; From the evasion, which always puts the blame on someone or something else; From the heart so hardened that it cannot repent. Give us at all times, Eyes which are open to our faults A conscience which is sensitive and quick to warn; A heart that cannot sin in peace but is moved to regret and remorse. So, grant that being truly penitent we may be truly forgiven, so that we may find that your love is great enough to cover all of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Responsive Reading

In the shadows of our night God calls to us;
beckoning us on,
seeking us out,
calling us to peace,
to quietness,
to wholeness.

**The world is bleak around us,
filled with coldness, terror and restlessness.**

This is of our creation:
greed, hatred, envy, brokenness.

Take us and heal us of every evil.

**Bring us back into the comfort and closeness
of your embrace, O God.**

Your cleansing love, O God,
purifies our spirits, restoring us to you:
warm, comforting, restful, complete.

**In the dark of our night we hear God call,
offering love and strength and forgiveness.**

With God the darkness brings comfort not fear,
love not hatred,
righteousness not punishment.

**May we move through our lives in the certain faith
that we belong to our Loving God
who receives us tonight with open arms. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Love

Anointing

As we remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return, let us mark our hands or heads with the sign of the cross. You may use ashes, oil, or lotion.

A Time of Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Reconciling Love

Benediction

Prayer of Contrition written by William Barclay in *Prayers for the Christian Year* (1965).

Responsive Reading: Adapted— from *Ash Wednesday (Taize with imposition of ashes)* written by Lisa Frenz for the
"Copyright © 1999 Lisa Frenz. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission."