



Polk Presbyterian Church
February 22nd, 2023
Ash Wednesday

Enter Silently and Reverently

Lighting of Candles

Call to Worship:

Joel 2: 12-17

L: "Repent and return to God," says the prophet.

P: We know the confession and repentance will be our focus.

L: "God is gracious and merciful," says the prophet.

P: As our faults come home to us, we need God's mercy.

L: "God is slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love," says the prophet.

P: We come as a faithful people before you, O God. We are ready for the Lenten time of reflection.

Invocation

Gracious and merciful heavenly Father, we realize that we have been formed from the dust of the earth and the breath of life has been breathed into our human form. We have been called to this sacred assembly on this first day of the Lenten season for true spiritual repentance. We humbly request your divine presence to be among us and to fill us with the Holy Spirit so we might rekindle our divine spark. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Scripture:

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Homily: "Be Reconciled to God"

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline Psalm 51

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

P: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

P: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

L: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

P: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

P: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

L: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

L: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

P: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Prayer of Confession: BCW

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 judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change. Open to us a future in which we can be changed. Grant us grace to grow more and more into the likeness and image of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be in peace. Amen and Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

P: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

L: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

P: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gifts are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”

Gen. 3:19

Individual Spiritual Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Commissioning and Benediction

Exit Silently and Reverently

Light goes out before us



Pastor: Rev. Larry Myers

Music: Debbie Myers