

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

We gather in the dimness of evening,
**To be with God who brightens
the shadows of our lives.**

We gather in the quiet of this place,
**To be with Jesus, knowing that nothing
past, present or future separates us.**

We gather to be marked as disciples,
**To prepare for the journey through Lent,
to be sealed by the Spirit as God's own.**

***Hymn: According to Thy Steadfast Love**

No. 33

Prayer of Approach

First Scripture: Mark 1: 1-5

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight” ’ ,
4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Reflection: Into the Wilderness

Response:

Breathe in: **I am from dust**

Breathe out: **I return to dust**

Second Scripture: Matthew 6:1-4; 16-18

1 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

16 “And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Reflection: Seeing God more clearly

Response:

Breathe in: **I am from dust**

Breathe out: **I return to dust**

***Hymn: Just As I Am, Without One Plea**

No. 682

Third Scripture: Genesis 2:4b-8

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, 5 when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, 6 but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground— 7 then the Lord God formed a human from the dust of the ground and breathed into the human's nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living being. 8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there God put the human whom God had formed.

Reflection: We are dust

Response:

Breathe in: **I am from dust**

Breathe out: **I return to dust**

Marking with Ashes

Prayer for the Lenten Journey & 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,
forever. Amen.**

***Hymn: Take Up Your Cross**

No. 211

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

