

WE WEAR THE MASK: SERVICE FOR WEEK OF ASH WEDNESDAY

Note: Please have bread and juice available for communion. If you have Mardi Gras beads, you are welcome to wear them, and have a facemask to use during prayer.

***PRELUDE “Come Home Running” Chris Tomlin**

Welcome and Announcements – Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

Introduction – Rebeka Maples, Director of Spiritual Formation

CALL TO CARNIVAL

Leader: This is the day which the Lord has made!

All: Three parts glitter to one part shade:

Let us be glad and rejoice in it!

Everything sparkles as pure as glass,

The wing of the bird, and the blade of grass.

Everything glimmers, everything shines:

Even the clouds glisten in time.

Tonight - tomorrow - the leaf will fade,

But this is the day which the Lord has made:

Let us be glad and rejoice in it!

PRAYER FOR SHROVETIDE (Pancake/Fat Tuesday)

All: O Lord, refresh us, and give us this day our daily taste.

Restore our senses, and take away our fear of fat; make us glad for all we have.

Give us grace to live and share the good things you have given: to eat and fast when it is time, to worship you and serve as you have blessed us, with the dew of heaven, the fatness of earth, living water and bread from heaven.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE (for Transfiguration, Week of Ash Wednesday): 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

***SONG “Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)” Chris Tomlin**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Week of Ash Wednesday)

(Holding a mask)

Leader: We wear the mask in Ordinary Time to hide our sin.

Yesterday we wore the mask to keep a vicious virus out.

Today we wear the mask to hide our face and celebrate, wearing shiny beads and having fun.

Tomorrow we begin the fast,

giving up and taking on, habits that hold us back.

But one day all the masks must fall, all our disguises,

all the parts we play before the world and ourselves must end.

Now we wait for life dying on a cross, praying for the veil to be lifted
and the light of Christ to shine again.

Naming the prayers among us: please share in the chat or out loud

Leader 2: Oh God of sorrow and joy, hear the prayers we lift up to you for ourselves and others...

(Looking at a mask)

God, we come to you in awe of the day of your Transfiguration,
when you were changed from glory into glory. We come holding our masks and praying for you to
change us and our world. We pray for those who have died and suffer still from this virus and all the
division we are living with. Give us the courage and strength to continue to serve you.

Come, O gracious God, and guide us now as we enter another season and follow you to the light
of Easter. Be with us in our churches as we lead your people through times of sorrow and joy, in living
and dying. Renew our faith and strength to follow you as you have called us, to serve you where you
lead us, and to be your presence wherever we are.

God of wilderness places and mountaintop graces, hear us as we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

(adapted from "A Liturgy for Transfiguration Sunday," by Thom M Shuman)

INVITATION

We don't know if Transfiguration or Crucifixion happened exactly as we are told. But we believe that
the stories are in the Gospels for a reason, that they say something to us about how following Jesus will
transform our lives and our world; that love is stronger than hate; that we are loved; that goodness is
the path we are meant to walk, that others will help us and that we can be a guide to them on the Way.
This is not our table or the church's table, this is the Lord's table – and everyone is welcome.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: May the God of mountaintops and desert places be with you!

ALL: And also with you!

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We open our hearts to the One who calls us.

Beloved of God, offer your praises to the One who is with you now.

We lift our voices to thank God for loving us.

Creator God, through the chaos of creation you spoke,
and mountains were formed and streams rolled down with justice.

Created in your image,
we were tempted by sin and hid ourselves from life and joy.

You did not turn away from us, sending prophets to call us back,
but we did not listen to them.

And so, with those in every time and place we still offer our song to you:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! GOD WHO LISTENS TO OUR CRIES,

ALL CREATION TREMBLES WITH SORROW AND JOY.

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES WITH WORDS OF LIFE.

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

Holy are you, Wonder of wonders,
and blessed is the One who reigns in peace.

