

## SERVICE INSERT FOR MARCH 9, 2025

### GREETING & WELCOME TO LENT

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we journey into the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion—as individuals complicit in unhealthy systems of power and greed—separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite all of us, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament that we share together with Christ Jesus. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

*(please stand)*

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most holy and merciful God,

C: **We confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

P: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

L: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.

C: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our self-indulgent ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**  
L: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**  
P: Our false judgements, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**  
L: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.  
**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**  
P: Restore us, O God, and forgive us with your abundant grace and love.  
**C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**C: Amen.**

*You are invited to come forward to receive the sign of the cross on your forehead. Please let an usher know if you need Pastor D.J. to come to you. When you are marked with the cross of ashes, hear the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

### **Prayer After Imposition**    *(please stand)*

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**  
P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**  
P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.  
**C: Amen.**

### **OPENING HYMN**