

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2023
Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

7:00 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY
Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND OPENING SCRIPTURE

Pastor Viv

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16

INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is not a time for being miserable,
but for taking stock and resetting our aims for following Christ.
Loving God, in you we trust, let us never fool ourselves.

Lent is an opportunity for healthy repentance-
repentance for our indifference in face of the permeating evil of the world,
repentance for personal sins which we have glossed over as "mere foibles."
According to your loving kindness, remember me, God of goodness and saving grace.

Lent is a time for joy; the exhilaration that comes-
from defying temptations, from turning our face to the light that shines
on the narrow path of Christ Jesus,
from walking into adverse winds and enjoying small victories day by day.
**Make me to know your ways, O God, teach me your paths,
for you are the God of my salvation and my true happiness.**

THE CHOIR “Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes”

**1 Sunday's palms are Wednesdays ashes as another Lent begins;
thus we kneel before the Maker in contrition for our sins.
We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray;
now returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!**

**2 We have failed to love our neighbors, their offences to forgive,
have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live.
we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving over-much our things;
may the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.**

**3 We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need;
and our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed;
we have wasted earth’s resources; want and suffering we've ignored;
come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us Lord.**

PRAYER

**Loving God, whose glory it is always to have mercy:
Be gracious to us who have gone astray from your ways,
and bring us again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith,
to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word,
our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

A time for silent meditation.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, the promises of God are true. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Live now as new people, free to love God and neighbor. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE**Psalm 51****Jeannie Laureano, Reader**

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 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.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit
from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- 17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE**CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART**

“Put a new and right spirit within me.” Psalm 51: 10

THE CHOIR**“The Singing”****RECEIVING OF ASHES & HOLY COMMUNION**

Those who so desire may come forward to receive ashes on forehead or on the back of your hand as a sign of penitence not only for our individual sin, but also in recognition of our complicity in the sin of the world.

After receiving ashes, all who love the Lord Jesus Christ and those who wish to know him better are invited to share in communion.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

**1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**3 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

DEPARTING IN SILENCE

*Stand as able.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

10:00 AM **SCOUT SUNDAY**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

10:00 AM **PRAYER/DISCUSSION GROUP**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

7:00 PM **LENTEN ZOOM STUDY**