

ASH WEDNESDAY – *March 5, 2025*

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DAY

GATHERING HYMN *“Restore in Us, O God”*

#328

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

INVITATION TO THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another..

Most Holy and Merciful God, **We confess to you and to one another, and before the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Sing: Holy One have mercy, Christ have mercy, Holy One have mercy upon us.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Sing: Holy One have mercy, Christ have mercy, Holy One have mercy upon us.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and impatience that have infected our lives. We confess our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people; our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves; our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work; our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us.

Sing: Holy One have mercy, Christ have mercy, Holy One have mercy upon us.

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done—for our neglect of human need and suffering, for our indifference to injustice and cruelty, for all false judgments, for our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

for our waste and pollution of your good creation, and for our lack of concern for those who come after us.

Sing: *Holy One have mercy, Christ have mercy, Holy One have mercy upon us.*

Restore us, good God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, calls us to heartfelt repentance, and urges us to place our hope in God alone.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes remind us of our mortality and penitence and teach us again that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

(Those who desire to receive ashes in the sign of the cross on their foreheads may come forward to the altar rail to kneel or stand; return to your pew after receiving the ashes.)

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

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. **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC 12:05 pm *“Did You Think to Pray”* Kathy Houzner
7:00 pm *“The Mystery”* Choir

READING-Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

REFLECTION

READING-Isaiah 58:1-12

REFLECTION

SERMON HYMN *“Our Father, We Have Wandered”* #606

THE PRAYERS

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”* #188

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

We commune at the rail – kneel / stand to receive the bread and wine (light) or juice (dark). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

SENDING PRAYER

God of compassion, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give you a contrite heart. May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the cross, heal you by his wounds. May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *“The Glory of These Forty Days”* #320

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

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