



## Ash Wednesday

March 5th, 2025



### Opening Prayer

#### **Responsive Reading** (*adapted from Psalm 51:1-17*)

LEADER: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**ALL: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

LEADER: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**ALL: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,**

LEADER: so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

**ALL: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

LEADER: Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

**ALL: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

LEADER: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

**ALL: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

LEADER: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**ALL: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

LEADER: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**ALL: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**

LEADER: Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

**ALL: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**

LEADER: For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

**ALL: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Hymn

#488 Just As I Am

#### **Scripture Reading:** 2 Peter 3:1-18

#### **Meditation:** Not Wishing That Any Should Perish

#### **Corporate Prayer of Confession and the Lord's Prayer (ALL)**

Sovereign LORD, You are merciful to forgive us when we sin. You have chosen us and called us to Yourself, adopted us as Your beloved children, but we fail to be obedient. We are still rebellious youths, certain of our own rightness, desiring to choose our own way. We wander away from the paths of Your righteousness, our feet take us away from Your presence. Restore us LORD. Help us to live lives of repentance. Redirect and correct our steps, so that we may follow in Your way. Lead us on paths of righteousness for Your Name's sake. Restore our souls and let us dwell in Your house forever.

We pray this in the name of our Good Shepherd, Jesus, who taught us to pray by praying:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. **Amen**

#### **Imposition of Ashes**

(Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.)

LEADER: Let us pray; Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and repentance, and a reminder that only by Your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**ALL: AMEN**

LEADER: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,

**ALL: That we may show forth Your glory in the world.**

LEADER: Through the cross and sacrifice of Your Son,

**ALL: Bring us to the joy of Christ's resurrection. AMEN**

Hymn

#479 Softly and Tenderly

Benediction