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## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

*Please gather in silence.*

### Call to Worship

One: God sent Christ into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but that the world might be saved through him.

**All: God's love endures forever.**

**Anthem:** *Ave Verum Corpus*

W. A. Mozart

Ave, verum corpus  
natum de Maria Virgine,  
Vere passum immolatum  
in Cruce pro homine,  
Cujus latus perforatum  
unda fluxit et sanguine,  
Esto nobis praegustatum  
in mortis examine.

Hail, true body  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
Who has truly suffered, and was  
sacrificed on the Cross for mankind,  
Whose side was pierced from whence  
flowed water and blood,  
Be for us a foretaste of heaven  
In our trial of life and death.

### Unison Prayer

**Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive full pardon and forgiveness.**

**We pray in the name and for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen**

### Prayer for Illumination

**First Scripture Reading:** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

**Second Scripture Reading:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

### Homily

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

### Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

#### Litany of Penitence

One: Let us pray.

**All: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to 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.**

One: 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.

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

One: We have not listened 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.

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

One: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**All: we confess to you, O God.**

One: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**All: we confess to you, O God.**

One: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**All: we confess to you, O God.**

One: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**All: we confess to you, O God.**

One: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**All: we confess to you, O God.**

One: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**All: accept our repentance, O God.**

One: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**All: accept our repentance, O God.**

One: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**All: accept our repentance, O God.**

One: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**All: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

### **Statement on Lent**

*\*Hymn #433 Sign us With Ashes (verses 1-4)*

### **Imposition of Ashes**

*Worshippers desiring to participate in the Imposition of Ashes are invited to come forward.  
Following the Imposition, please meditate in silence.*

### **Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

**All: slow to anger and abounding in love.**

One: In the name of Christ, we are reconciled to God.

*\*Hymn #166 Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

### **\*Benediction**

*Please depart in silence.*

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit.*