



A Service for Ash Wednesday

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

7:00pm

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn #166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-14 p600

Second Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 p787

Homily & Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Choral Anthem

Lord Jesus, Think On Me

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 who are more fortunate than ourselves,

All: we confess to you, O God.

One: Our negligence in prayers 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!

Imposition of Ashes

(Those who wish to receive the sign of ashes are invited to come forward at this time, making one line down the center aisle, and returning to you seat by the side aisles. If you wish to remain where you are, please do so in silent prayer. If you are unable to come forward, please let us know, and Jason will come to you.)

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 our Lord. Amen.

Hymn #227 Jesus, Remember Me (sung through three times)

Blessing & Dismissal