

Ash Wednesday
March 5, 2019



Greeting

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **God's mercy endures forever.**

Opening Prayer

Hymn Just as I Am, Without One Plea LUYH 627

Old Testament Lesson: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17a

[silence]

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

[silence]

New Testament Lesson: 1 Peter 1: 16-21

[silence]

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Imposition of Ashes

Pastor: We begin our Lenten observance by using the centuries-old symbol of ashes. By this we are reminded of our own frailty and mortality and are called to humility and penitence.

People: **Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be to us a sign of our mortality, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Prayer of Confession

Hymn God, Be Merciful to Me LUYH 623

[silence]

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God,
People: **we enter this season of Lent in penitence and humility, aware of our own mortality and sinfulness. Encourage us with your presence, we pray, that we may empty ourselves of whatever separates us from you and one another. Teach us to rely on no strength but yours, as we journey with your Son toward your kingdom through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication Psalm 116

[silence]

Pastor: Lord, our God,
People: **make of us pilgrims throughout these forty days. We pledge to walk in the light of your Word and by the power of your Spirit. Strengthen us in our commitment, we pray, that we may serve you and each other in the love of Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

LUYH 334

[exit in silence]