



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:1-12 (NRSV)

Dina Schroeder

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

#223 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND GRACE

(Psalm 51)

Dr. Janet Loman

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion, blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness

People: and cleanse me from my sin.

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned

People: and done what is evil in your sight.

Leader: And so you are justified when you speak, and upright in your judgment. Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. Hide your face from my sins

People: and blot out all my iniquities.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence

People: and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Leader: Give me the joy of your saving help again, and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

People: Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

#423 "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"

SARADAY

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 90 (NRSV)

Bill Kuyper

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“In Dark Gethsemane”
Choral Scholars

Trevor Manor

SCRIPTURE READING

Vicki Edwards

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (*NRSV*)

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

PASTORAL MEDITATION

Rev. Norm Story

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

“Ashes”

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Jesus, Remember Me”
Choral Scholars

REMEMBER ME

POSTLUDE

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our brokenness before God and our human mortality. Our worship service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.