



Ash Wednesday Service
February 18, 2025 — 6:30 pm Service
Order of Worship
FM Frequency 99.3

Ash Wednesday

We receive the sign of the cross in ashes upon our forehead as a symbol of repentance. Ashes are imposed with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Scripture counsels us, *"Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love"* (Joel 2:13, NRSV). A sincere welcome to our Ash Wednesday service.

Opening Prayer Of Confession:

- L: God of mercy and grace, we come before you a brokenhearted people. We have failed to walk in the ways of Jesus Christ in our expressing love toward you and one another. Grant us the strength to return fully to you. In fasting, prayer, and with repentant hearts, turn our weeping into joyful love for you and one another. We confess, Lord, we need your mercy to be renewed. Most holy Lord ...
- C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done and left undone.**
- L: We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind and strength. We have not given ourselves to fully knowing you and truly living out your Word. For your life-giving Word ...
- C: Lord, renew us.**
- L: Merciful Lord, we have grieved the Holy Spirit with our pride and self-serving pursuits. For your Holy Spirit ...
- C: Lord, renew us.**
- L: Father, we have been critical of others and quick to judge, and much too slow to forgive in our lack of understanding your will. We have turned on one another, creating strife and division where it should not be, all within your holy presence. For greater understanding and compassion ...
- C: Lord, renew us in your grace and mercy.**
- L: Lord, we have been passive in our response when others are being injured and oppressed. Give us strength to stand up for justice. For the vulnerable, and because we have wronged them ...
- C: Lord, renew us.**
- L: Father, we often seek personal comfort and pleasures at the expense of your Kingdom work and

your mission. Revive our hearts to put your Kingdom before our appeasement ...

C: Lord, renew us according to your grace.

L: God, restore to us clean hearts and right spirits with an outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Rekindle within us a desire to be a people set apart, righteous and whole in the mercy of your Son Jesus Christ. For renewed purpose ...

C: Hear us, O Lord, and renew the people of St. Paul's this day.

The Imposition of Ashes

At the direction of the ushers, any who wish may come forward to receive the sign of the cross in ashes upon their forehead as a symbol of repentance. Ashes are imposed with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

L: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord.

C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

L: We ask this in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: **Savior, When In Dust To You**

Savior, when in dust to you
Low we bow in homage due
When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes
Oh, by all your pains and woe
Suffered once for us below
Bending from your throne on high
Hear our penitential cry

By your helpless infant years
By your life of want and tears
By your days of deep distress
In the savage wilderness
By the dread, mysterious hour
Of the insulting tempter's pow'r
Turn, oh, turn a fav'ring eye
Hear our penitential cry

By your hour of dire despair
By your agony of prayer
By the cross, the nail, the thorn
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn
By the gloom that veiled the skies
O'er the dreadful sacrifice
Listen to our humble sigh
Hear our penitential cry

By your deep expiring groan
By the sad sepulchral stone

By the vault whose dark abode
Held in vain the rising God
Oh, from earth to heav'n restored
Mighty, reascended Lord
Bending from your throne on high
Hear our penitential cry

"Savior, When In Dust To You" Robert Grant; Joseph Parry CCLI License #619995

First Lesson: Lamentations 1:1-4

"How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave. She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies. Judah has gone into exile because of affliction and hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. The roads to Zion mourn, for none come to the festival; all her gates are desolate; her priests groan; her virgins have been afflicted, and she herself suffers bitterly."

Second Lesson: Romans 1:18-23

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."

Gospel Lesson: Luke 19:41-44

"And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, 'Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.'"

Sermon — *"An Outside View Part 1"* Pastor David Kaiser

Closing Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

L: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

A: Amen.

Hymn: ***O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days***

O Lord, throughout these forty days
You prayed and kept the fast
Inspire repentance for our sin
And free us from our past

You strove with Satan, and you won
Your faithfulness endured
Lend us your nerve, your skill and trust
In God's eternal Word

Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed
And fixed your mind above
So teach us to deny ourselves
That we may know God's love

Be with us through this season, Lord
And all our earthly days
That when the final Easter dawns
We join in heaven's praise

"O Lord, Throughout these Forty Days" Claudia Hermann; Gilbert Doan CCLI License #619995

Music Benediction: ***Old Rugged Cross***

On a hill far way stood
An old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross
Where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

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