

A Service of Worship  
for  
**Ash Wednesday**  
Focusing on the Symbols and Disciplines of Lent

February 9, 2005

**Congregational responses are in bold print**

Gathering Music

Silence

Solo *“Be Still My Soul”*

Silence

Collect (pray in unison with the pastor):

**Father in heaven,  
the light of Your truth bestows sight  
to the darkness of sinful eyes  
May this season of repentance  
bring us the blessing of Your forgiveness  
and the gift of your light. Amen.**

Silence

\*Hymn No. 352 *“It’s Me, It’s Me, O Lord”* (begin slowly)

The Key to Lent: Baptism

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 58:1-12, NIV*

The Symbol of Ashes

The Psalter: *Psalms 51:1-17, NIV*

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
**according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.**

Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

**For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.**

Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are proved right when you speak

and justified when you judge.  
**Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**  
Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;  
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.  
**Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.  
**Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.**  
Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
**Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.**  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  
**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will turn back to you.**  
Save me from bloodguilt, O God,  
the God who saves me,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.  
**O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.**  
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.  
**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart,  
O God, you will not despise.**

\*Hymn No. 357

*"Just As I Am"*

The Practice of Giving Something Up

An Epistle Reading: *2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, NIV*

Scrutinies: Examining Our Lives

The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21, NIV*

Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving

The Prayer of Confession

**Most merciful God,  
We confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have failed to do.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Words of Reassurance:

If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world. (*1 John 2:1b-2, NIV*)

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (*1 John 1:9, NIV*)**

\*Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through Him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day He rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.  
With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy universal and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

\*Hymn No. 382

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

Prayers:

Lord God, Maker and King of the universe, to whom all honor, glory, praise, and worship are due; it is a right and proper thing, at all times, in all places, and in all circumstances, to give you our most hearty thanks and praise, especially for your Son Jesus Christ, who died to take away our sins and the sins of the entire world. He rose again from the dead and sits at your right hand where He rules over all things, including the things we cannot understand.

**Lord, forgive us for neglecting the reading and study of your holy Word. Free us from any fondly held but vain opinions and fill us afresh with the Spirit of Truth, that we might delight in your holy Word, that we might study it and reflect upon it, and see you within it.**

Lenten Commitment and Baptism Renewal

Solo

“*All of Me*”

Silence: *Pray thanksgivings and petitions for yourselves and others.*

Concluding Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

**We do not ask these things on our own authority, for before you we have none, but in the name of your only begotten Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in your glory, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, as one God, now and forever, Amen.**

**Our Father, who is in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come, your will be done,  
On earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Keep us from being tempted beyond our ability to prevail,  
And deliver us from evil,  
For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory,  
Forever, Amen.**

Hymn No. 354

“*I Surrender All*” (vv. 1,2,3)

Silence

Depart