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MARCH 5, 2025, 7:30 PM  
ASH WEDNESDAY

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**Bold text** is  
read by the  
congregation.

† **This symbol**  
designates  
when to rise in  
body or in spir-  
it.

**Bibles** and our  
**Glory to God**  
**Hymnals** are  
located in the  
rack under the  
pew.

## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**PRELUDE**

*Choral Phrygian*

Jehan Alain

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**God's mercy endures forever.**

† **HYMN**

*Have Mercy, God, upon My Life*

**Hymn 421**

**Confession** is a hallmark of the Reformed tradition. We believe that it is important to begin worship by confessing the ways we've fallen short of God's intention for us.

Trusting in the everlasting mercy of God, each confession is concluded by the **Assurance of Pardon**, a liturgical reminder that no sin is so powerful as to keep us from the love of God.

## † CALL TO CONFESSION

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two things: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. Let us join now in our unison prayer of confession using words from Psalm 51.

## † UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Have mercy on me, God, according to your unfailing love. 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 you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Let me hear joy and gladness. 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.**

## † SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## † ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. Amen.

## † CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE    *Spirit of the Living God*    **HYMN 288**

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, your word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:10

## ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

Rev. Emily Cooper

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION    *A Lenten Walk*  
Chancel Choir

Hal H. Hopson

## THANKSGIVING OVER ASHES

† IMPOSITION OF ASHES

† HYMN                      *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

**Hymn 166**

† DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*All depart in silence*

The **Prayer of Illumination** is a prayer asking God to shed light on the meaning of scripture, essentially requesting the Holy Spirit to open one's mind and heart to understand the deeper truths within the Bible.

In the **Ash Wednesday Meditation** God calls us back to himself. He calls us to enter into the joy of the Lord- the joy of a new life born out of a death to the old life.

The **Imposition of Ashes** on the forehead serve as a reminder that "we are dust, and to dust we shall return," encouraging a quiet connection with God during the start of Lent, a season of penitence and renewal.

## WORSHIP NOTES

**WE RECORD OUR WORSHIP ATTENDANCE.** We invite each member of your family in attendance to sign the friendship pad at the end of each pew. We are glad to have you worship with us!

**VISITORS**, please **complete a visitor card found** in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We invite you to stop by the kiosk in the narthex outside the sanctuary doors to receive **a welcome packet**. We are glad to have you worship with us!

### LENTEN PARAMENTS

The Lenten paraments are crafted in a batik fabric, in various hues of purple - the color used during our two seasons of preparation (Advent and Lent). Emphasizing this season of simplicity, the Table paraments include no additional decoration or symbols. The lectern parament and the pastor's stole are emblazoned with the "passion cross." The pointed ends of the cross evoke the spear that pierces Jesus side at his crucifixion. These paraments provide a stark contrast to the splendor of the paraments for the Season of Easter.

### ----- CHURCH STAFF -----

Rev. Emily Cooper, ***Pastor***

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Corinne Adkins, ***Director of Music & Organist***

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Jennifer Zanke, ***Office Manager***

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