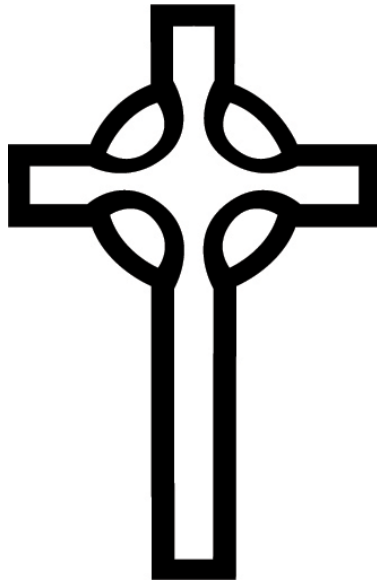


ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22, 2023



*...rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
and relenting from punishment.*

Joel 2:13

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lenten Worship at the Lord's Table

7:00 PM Sanctuary and Online

PRELUDE

Solemn Prelude on a Theme of Thomas Tallis

Gerald Near
Todd Fickley, Organ

WELCOME

Rev. Donna Marsh

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

One O Lord, open my lips,

All **And my mouth will declare your praise.**

One You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it.

All **You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

One The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

All **A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

from Psalm 51

▲ HYMN

Near to the Heart of God

McAfee

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,

a place where love and grace attest, near to the heart of God

Refrain: *O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.*

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,

a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.

Refrain

There is a place of true release, near to the heart of God,

a place where we find joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

Refrain

LENTEN CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Rev. Lisa Larsen

Most merciful God,

your Son our Savior was tempted in every way,
yet was without sin.

We confess before you our own sinfulness:

we have strayed from your ways in willfulness and pride,
we have doubted your goodness and grace,
we have disobeyed your commands,
we have done what is evil in your sight.

Forgive us we pray, O Lord, and cleanse us from the stain of sin.

Restore in us such trust and love

that we may walk in your path and delight in your will.

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

▲ LENTEN CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning!

Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord, great is thy faithfulness.

SCRIPTURE

Joel 2:12-17

Leslie Saum

¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

Matthew 5:3

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

Rev. Allan Poole

RESPONSE

Caithness

Choir: O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heav'nly frame,
A light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!

Congregation: The dearest idols we have known, whate'er those idols be,
Help us to take them from thy throne, and worship only thee.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Dr. Quinn Fox

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

(Marking with ashes offered for those who so desire)

Music Meditation

A Lenten Walk

Hal Hopson

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself;
O nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.
Jesus bore the tempter's cunning, he had to bear the tempter's guile;
O nobody else could bear it for him, temptation's lures, deceit and wiles.
We must take our cross and follow; we must take it by ourselves;
O nobody else can follow for us, we have to follow by ourselves.

Prayer of Response

The 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

▲ HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Land of Rest

Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
As you, with Satan, did contend and did the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.
All through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide,
Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

▲ BENEDICTION

Rev. Poole

▲ POSTLUDE

O World, I Must Leave Thee

Johannes Brahms
Mr. Fickley, Organ

An offering will be received at the doors as you exit.

You're invited to join us for all our Lent & Easter Activities!

Come back next week for *Dinner, Drama, Discussion!*

Every Wednesday in March at 6:00 pm

You won't want to miss our exciting and creative exploration of C.S. Lewis' classic book, *The Great Divorce*. We'll gather together for dinner, dramatic reading and discussion with others.

Then, invite your friends to:

- Palm Sunday Worship: April 2, 8:45 & 11:00 am
- Palm Sunday prayer vigil: 12:15-1:00 pm
- Maundy Thursday: April 7, 7:00 pm
- Good Friday: April 7, 7:00 pm
- Easter Worship: April 9, 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 am
- Easter egg hunt: April 9 after the 10:00 am worship service

Please visit nationalpres.org/Easter for a full listing of our events celebrating Lent, Holy Week and Easter.



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