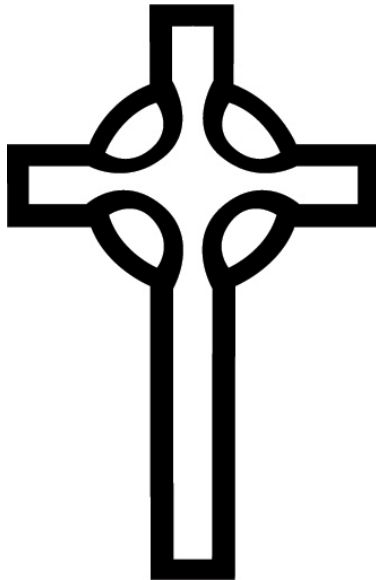


ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024



*Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
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

Chorale Prelude and Fugue on "O Traurigkeit"

Johannes Brahms

Todd Fickley, Organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Quinn Fox

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

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*

Dr. Fox

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 *sung first by the choir, then the congregation*

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?'"

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

MEDITATION

God's Persistent Love
Return to Me

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

RESPONSE

If with All Your Hearts

Felix Mendelssohn

Ye people rend your hearts and not your garments for your transgressions, even as the prophets hath spoken for heaven by the word of God. I therefore say to ye, forsake your idols, return to God; for he is slow to anger and merciful, and kind and gracious, and relenth him lest he slay thee. "If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me," thus saith our God. O that I knew where I might find him that I might even come before his presence! "If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me," thus saith our God.

Dr. Michael Denham

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Lisa Larsen

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 and 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 85

What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ POSTLUDE

O World, I Must Leave Thee, Op. 122, No. 4

Johannes Brahms
Mr. Fickley, Organ

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

Invite your friends to:

- Palm Sunday Worship: March 24, 8:45 & 11:00 am
- Prayer Gathering: Chapel, 9:55 am
- Palm Sunday Concert: March 24, 5:00 pm - Mozart *Requiem*
- Maundy Thursday: March 28, 7:00 pm
- Good Friday: March 29, 7:00 pm
- Easter Worship: March 31, 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 am
- Easter egg hunt: March 31 after 8:30 & 10:00 am worship services

Please visit nationalpres.org/Easter for a full listing of our events



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