

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

PRELUDE

THE PURPOSE OF GATHERING

In the Christian tradition the season of Lent – the six weeks preceding Easter plus the last four days of another week beginning today, Ash Wednesday – is a time to make a special spiritual pilgrimage. It is a time of introspection and self-examination when we probe deeply and respond honestly to how we are getting on with the process of transformation into a new person in Jesus Christ.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We are standing once more at the beginning of a holy journey.

People: It is a journey we need to make.

Pastor: In this holy journey of Lent enable us to reflect on the way we have lived and the way we ought to be living.

People: Guide us once more to the life-changing decisions that await us, and give us the desire and the courage to make them.

Pastor: In this holy journey of Lent help us to make this a real season of prayer, and seek your heavenly assistance in overcoming the temptation to sin.

People: Send Your Holy Spirit upon us, and baptize us in your divine presence, that this may be more than a span of time on the calendar – that it may become a journey to new life and understanding.

All: In this holy journey of Lent all we ask is a closer walk with Thee.

HYMN OF SUFFERING

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

CHORUS

*Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

CHORUS

When, my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.

CHORUS

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

MEDITATION

“I am the Good Shepherd”

ANTHEM

“Ancient Words”

HOLY COMMUNION AND THE ASHES

BLESSING OF COMMUNION

I Corinthians 11: 23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

Gracious God, who formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life, it is by Your gift alone that we know life and life eternal.

Grant that these ashes, the dust of once-joyful palms, may remind us of our mortality and call us again to You. We pray through Christ Jesus. Amen

COMING FORWARD FOR HOLY COMMUNION AND THE MARK OF THE CROSS

When the Deacons are standing by your pew, please come forward to receive Holy Communion from the Elders and the Mark of the Cross from the Pastors and then return to your seats.

HYMN OF BEING TOUCHED

"He Touched Me"

Shackled by a heavy burden, 'neath a load of guilt and shame,
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.
He touched me, O He touched me,
And O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.

Since I met this blessed Savior,
Since He cleansed and made me whole
I will never cease to praise Him;
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.
He touched me, O He touched me,
And O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

CLOSING HYMN FOR OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

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.

We must walk this lonesome valley, we have to walk it by ourselves;
O, nobody else can walk it for us,
We have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial, you have to stand it by yourself;
O, nobody else can stand it for you,
You have to stand it by yourself

BENEDICTION

And now begin your Lenten journey and go in peace. May
Jesus Christ who for our sake became obedient unto death, even
death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you this night and forever.

Amen

POSTLUDE