

Ash Wednesday Service
February 17, 2021

Greeting:

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 for ever.

Opening Prayer:

O God, maker of every thing and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days UMH 269

Scripture: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Sermon: "Life in the Fast Lane" Rev Scott Foster

Invitation to the observance of Lenten Discipline: Shirley Carvatt

Dear Family in Christ: David took responsibility for his sin in 2 Samuel 25: 10, "And David said to the LORD, 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly'. During the Forty Day period before Easter, we also take responsibility for our sin. We are invited by the Church to observe Lent by self-examination and repentance, by prayer and fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance and as a mark of our own mortal nature, let us bow our heads before our Creator and Redeemer as we ask a blessing of these ashes.

Thanks giving over the Ashes:

Rev. Lynn Mears

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we going everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes: Repent, and believe the gospel.

Special music: My Faith Looks up to Thee/Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Cheryl Slegers, Flute Robin Van Schaick, Piano

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, you abound in grace and mercy.

Wash away our guilt, and cleanse us from our sins.

There's no way to hide what we've done.

Our misdeeds constantly confront us.

We deserve your judgment.

But we plead for your forgiveness.

You alone can change us and transform us.

You alone can restore our joy.

Create a pure heart within us, lord.

Renew us, revive us, and uphold us.

Open our mouths, that we might proclaim your praises.

Give voice to your songs of deliverance. Amen. (Silent prayer)

Words of Assurance:

The Lord takes little pleasure in our earthly offerings, but delights in the sacrifice of our broken spirits. God will never turn away a wounded heart.

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights. You bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mt Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty Days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now with the confidence of Children of God let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us to say: **Our Father, who is 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 or trespasses) as we forgive (our debtors/those who trespass against us) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

Giving the bread and cup:

Hymn: Lord, I want to Be a Christian

UMH 402

Benediction:

Rev. Scott Foster

Deep

how broad, how high,
 for us he bore
 for us he taught;
 vil power be - trayed,
 rom death a - gain;
 our Lord and God

ith ec - sta - sy,
 id hun - gered sore,
 y works he wrought;
 le robe ar - rayed,
 n high to reign;
 o high, so broad:

God, should take
 n sharp he knew;
 d ac - tions thus
 l cross and death,
 s Spir - it here,
 om we a - dore,

mor - tals' sake!
 o - ver - threw.
 - self, but us.
 dy - ing breath.
 and to cheer.
 - ev - er - more.

DEO GRACIAS
 LM

Revised, 1950

Lent

268

O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978
 © 1978, 1989 Augsburg Publishing House

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 269

1. Lord, who through - out these for - ty days for
2. As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and
3. As thou didst hun - ger bear, and thirst, so
4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, and
5. A - bide with us, that so, this life of

us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to
 didst the vic - tory win, O give us strength in
 teach us, gra - cious Lord, to die to self, and
 through thy pas - sion - tide, yea, ev - er - more in
 suf - fering o - ver past, an Eas - ter of un -

mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
 thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.
 chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
 life and death, Je - sus, with us a - bide.
 end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

LAND OF REST
 CM

WORDS: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873 (Mt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13)
 MUSIC: USA folk melody; arr. by Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938;
 harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

Music © 1938, renewed 1966 J. Fischer and Bro. Co.; harm. © 1989 J. Fischer and Bro. Co.

For Holiness of Heart

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
 Here is the citadel of all my desiring,
 where my hopes are born
 and all the deep resolutions of my spirit take wings.
 In this center, my fears are nourished,
 and all my hates are nurtured.
 Here my loves are cherished,
 and all the deep hungers of my spirit are honored
 without quivering and without shock.
 In my heart, above all else,
 let love and integrity envelop me
 until my love is perfected and the last vestige
 of my desiring is no longer in conflict with thy Spirit.
 Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. Amen.

urman, USA, 20th cent.
 n of Anne Thurman

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart,
2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart,
3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart,
4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart,



in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian
 in my heart; Lord, I want to be more lov - ing
 in my heart; Lord, I want to be more ho - ly
 in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Je - sus



Afro-American spiritual
 Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
 Irr.



For True Life

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Govern all by thy wisdom, O Lord,
 so that my soul may always be serving thee
 as thou dost will,
 and not as I may choose.
 Do not punish me, I beseech thee,
 by granting that which I wish or ask,
 if it offend thy love, which would always live in me.
 Let me die to myself, that I may serve thee;
 let me live to thee, who in thyself art the true life. Amen.