

Ash Wednesday Service

[This is an extended confession that is substituted for the beginning and confession section of the Frontline Divine Service]

Introit

L: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me: for my soul trusteth in Thee.

C: You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made. You bring us to repentance and forgiveness, overlooking our sins. You spare us, for you are the Lord our God.

C: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me: for my soul trusteth in Thee.

Invocation

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

L: The Lord is with you.

C: And with your Spirit.

Responsive Reading, Psalm 51:1-19

Responsive reading ends with: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

Service of Confession

L: Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

C: Most holy and merciful Father,

we confess to you, and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints that we have sinned, through our own fault, in thought, word, and deed. We have sinned by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

L: We have sinned against you with unfaithfulness and disobedience.

C: Lord have mercy upon us.

L: We have sinned against you by not turning to you first in our need, and not calling upon you in prayer as we ought.

C: Lord have mercy upon us.

L: We have sinned against you with unrighteous anger and self-pity.

C: Lord have mercy upon us.

L: We have sinned against you with gossip and sexual impurity.

C: Lord have mercy upon us.

L: We have sinned against you by being ungrateful for your gifts and seeking the praise of men rather than your approval.

C: Lord have mercy upon us.

L: We have sinned against you with thoughtless cruelty and lies, making unjustified negative assumptions about the motives of others, and being neglectful in our worship.

C: Lord have mercy upon us.

L: We have sinned against you by failing to forgive others as you have forgiven us.

C: Lord have mercy upon us.

L: We have sinned against you by failing to share our faith and the hope that is within us.

C: Lord have mercy upon us.

L: Dear friends in Christ, our Lord has died for our sins and risen again that we may be justified in the eyes of God our Father. Thus it is declared in John's Epistle, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I therefore ask, do you believe this precious promise of mercy to be true?

C: We believe and confess the mercies of God.

L: Then as the Lord has promised in Scripture, I rejoice to declare this day that our sins are forgiven, and for Christ's sake our Heavenly Father says we are justified before Him. As forgiven, Baptized believers, we receive eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen

Collect

L: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Imposition of Ashes

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You created us out of the dust of the ground. May these ashes remind us of our fragility and our dependence upon your grace and mercy. May they also remind us of the cross of Christ by which we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

(Congregants come forward to receive the ashes on their forehead then return to their seats.)

[The remainder continues from Communion in the Frontline divine service.]