



ASH Wednesday

HOME GUIDE

Note to listener

Gather these supplies before you begin: (1) Communion elements (wine and bread) and **(2)** Ashes (some form of dirt/a marker).

**You may choose to apply ashes on yourself or with your partner/roommate during the Imposition of Ashes portion of the service.*

Welcome and Explanation of Service

Reading from Joel 2:1-2, 12-14

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming.
It is close at hand—
 a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and blackness.
Like dawn spreading across the mountains
 a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was in ancient times
 nor ever will be in ages to come.
“Even now,” declares the Lord,
 “return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

Rend your heart
 and not your garments.
Return to the Lord your God,
 for he is gracious and compassionate,
 slow to anger and abounding in love,
 and he relents from sending calamity.
Who knows? He may turn and relent
 and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings
 for the Lord your God.

Confession

Silence and Personal Confession

Corporate Confession (Confiteor)

All: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed; in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, by my fault, by my fault, by my most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Remember, you are but dust and to dust you will return.

Reading from Psalm 103

Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
But from everlasting to everlasting
the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children—
with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.
The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
Praise the Lord, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.
Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.
Praise the Lord, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.
Praise the Lord, my soul.

Eucharist

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.

All: You hold all our days in your hand, the same hand that spangled stars in the sky and shaped dust into human form.

Leader: You breathed your life into us, and set us in your world to love and serve you.

All: But we reject your love.

Leader: Yet you continue to woo us, calling us to return to a covenant of love with you.

Mystery of Faith

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

Blessing of the Elements

Breaking of the bread: Is not the bread we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

Lifting of the cup: Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ?

Benediction

All: May God, who has forgiven and fed us, now make us strong for these days ahead. May Jesus lead us, and we be found faithful to follow. May the Spirit drive us into the wilderness, burning away the chaff of our lives, and purifying our hearts for all to see and be blessed.

Leader: And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always!