

GATHERING (The congregation reads the bolded words)

The Lord be with you.

**And, also with you.**

Let us pray.

*(The community prays in silence)*

Lord, it is night and in the darkness we come to you,  
but you are light and in you there is no darkness at all.  
The darkness cannot hide you from us.

**Even though we walk through the darkest valley  
we will fear no evil, for you are with us.**

There is nothing in this life, not even death itself, which can  
separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Silence

Hymn #75 "Heilig, Heilig, Heilig" (all verses)

Opening Words:

There is no other day like Ash Wednesday.

The proud and the meek, the arrogant and the humble  
are all made equal on Ash Wednesday.

The healthy and the sick all make their way to church.

All are repentant.

All are preparing themselves for the shock of the laying on of  
the ashes on the forehead and the agonizing words:

*"Remember that you are dust;  
and to dust you shall return."* \*

Exhortation

Psalm 103:8-14

Hymn #527 verses 1&2 "Lord Jesus, think on me"

APPROACH

Prayer of approach (adapted from Byzantine Vespers)

**The Lord my Creator took me as dust from the earth, and  
formed me into a living being, breathing into me the breath  
of life**

**God honoured me with the gift of life with God, along with  
all of creation.**

**Even though I have sinned, God continues to offer me life  
through God's grace and love.**

**Amen.**

Isaiah 58:1-12

Matthew 6:1-9a

The Lord's Prayer -- in unison

Silence

CONFESSION

Psalm 51:1-12

Silence

Hymn #128 "Create in me a clean heart"

Prayer of confession

**O God, we confess:**

**our attachment to earthly treasures,**

**our hypocrisy and hidden idols, our temptation to forsake  
you, to take the "easy" way out.**

**At this time, we ask, not only for your grace and mercy, but  
also for your strength to let go of all that keeps us from  
you.**

**Forgive us and draw us closer to you.**

**In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

Silence

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hymn #136 "From the depths of sin"

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(The ashes signify repentance and humility as we enter the season of Lent. After the leaders have been marked with ashes, we invite all who wish, to come forward to receive the same sign. The ministers will apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:

"Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.")

Silence

Hymn #143 verses 1-3,6 "Amazing grace"

Prayer of Blessing:

Ask and you will be answered.

Seek and you will find.

Knock and the door will be opened for you.

Go with the touch of God's love and grace.

Go, live in peace, full of love and grace, and do not be silent.

Amen.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

(Imposition of Ashes)

February 14, 2018

7:00 p.m.