

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

pietrafitness.com



St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)

Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net or stpaulnb@gmail.com

Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Church-On July 23, 2020 Governor DeWine mandated mask wearing in public, including houses of worship. Masks are essential to help keep those around us safe. Thank you for cooperating.

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday Open House 6:00pm-7:30pm

Communion Station and Ashes Imposition Station will be available. Music will play, but not be sung.

Poet, artist and author Jan Richardson's thoughts about Ash Wednesday

All those days you felt like dust, like dirt, as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind and be scattered to the four corners or swept away by the smallest breath—as insubstantial—

Did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust? This is the day we freely say we are scorched. This is the hour we are marked by what has made it through the burning.

This is the moment we ask for the blessing that lives within the ancient ashes, that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for shame. Let us be marked not for false humility or for thinking we are less than we are but for claiming what God can do within dust, within dirt, within the stuff of which the world is made, and the stars that blaze in our bones, and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge we bear.

Meaning of Ashes

Ashes have been placed upon the foreheads of Christians for centuries on the first day of Lent. We are reminded of the words from Genesis: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Marked by ashes, we are reminded of our mortality and the frailty of our existence on earth. Like the grass that flourishes in the morning, we fade and wither at night.

Marked by ashes, we are reminded that we are not God and that we are not in control of our lives.

Marked by ashes, we are reminded that we bear the marks of a fire burned. The remaining ash is like the charred remains of a building. The building is long gone—the fire has blazed brightly. Now, what remains is charred and useless.

Marked by ashes, we are reminded of the palms of Christ’s triumphant entry—now a distant memory. Marked by ashes, we accept our own participation in Christ’s suffering.

Marked by ashes, we are reminded that we are unclean and unpresentable to God as we really are. Marked by ashes, we witness a need to cleansing, renewing, and restoring of our spirits and our lives.

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from your sins and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Imposition of Ashes: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from your sins and believe the good news of the Gospel. Amen.

Service of Holy Communion

On this holy night, we remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We also remember that these days of Lent bring us to Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Morn. We cannot get to Easter’s alleluia’s except by the way of the cross, the way of Christ Jesus.

And it is to his table you are invited this night. It is his grace that nourishes us with a taste of bread and wine. It is his love that calls us to gather in thanksgiving: in the midst of ashes AND alleluias.

Let us pray together. We thank you, God, for Jesus, who lived among us, uncovering your presence. We thank you that you stamped his death with victory, and that life, not death, was the final word. We ask now that you bless us as we share this bread that we may be nourished by that same unbounded love and so be encouraged to be your servants in the world. Amen.

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Pastor Dee Schroer

Cheyenne Olt

Dick Hudson

Anna Louise Hoelscher

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Accompanist/Vocalist

Organist

Lay Minister of Visitation

GREETING: On this Ash Wednesday we welcome you. In this season of reflection and repentance, let us look to Jesus who came to preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the year of God's favor. May we enter this night and the coming forty days turning to Christ Jesus who is and was and always shall be the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.

MUSIC

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 252

N.C. F $\frac{C}{F}$ F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F $\frac{C}{E}$ Dm C $\frac{C}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ Am

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and did the vic - tory win,
3 As you did hun - ger and did thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
4 And thro' these days of pen - i - tence, and thro' your Pas - sion - tide,
5 A - bide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,

Am Dm $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Dm}{F}$ Am Bb $\frac{Bb}{D}$ F F \sharp_2 F $\frac{Bb}{C}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 Fsus F

teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to con - quer sin.
to die to self, and so to live by your most ho - ly Word.
for - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at last at - tain!

WORDS: Claudia F. Hernaman (1838-1898), alt.
MUSIC: American melody, adapt.; harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

LAND OF REST
C.M.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.*

*² Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—*

*³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,*

*⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,*

*⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live^[a]
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

*⁶ The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.*

*⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.*

*⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

*⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.*

*¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

*¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;*

*¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.*

*¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.*

*¹⁴ For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.*

*¹⁵ As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;*

*¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.*

*¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,*

*¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.*

*¹⁹ The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.*

*²⁰ Bless the Lord, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
obedient to his spoken word.*

*²¹ Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his ministers that do his will.*

*²² Bless the Lord, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley 254

1 Je - sus walked this lone - some val - ley, he had to
 2 Je - sus prayed for his dis - ci - ples; he prayed a -
 3 Je - sus died on Cal - vary's moun - tain; he died a -
 4 Je - sus rose from death's dark pris - on; he lives a -

walk it by him - self; O, no - bod - y else could walk it
 lone for you and me. O, no - bod - y else could bear such
 lone for you and me. O, no - bod - y else could die for
 gain for you and me. O, no - bod - y else could bring us

for him, he had to walk it by him - self.
 sor - row; he prayed a - lone for you and me.
 sin - ners; he had to die for you and me.
 vic - tory; he is a - live to set us free.

PRAYER: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us return to that love. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing your sin and by asking God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Let us pray: Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Accept our repentance, O God. Forgive us our sins. Call us back to your will and way in this season of reflection and repentance. Amen.

MUSIC

One Bread, One Body

689

One Bread, One Body

Refrain (Unison)

Chord symbols: C/D, G, C/G, G, C/G, G, D, Em, Bsus, B

Lyrics: One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all,

Chord symbols: Em, D, G, Em, A7/C#, A, D, C/D

Lyrics: one cup of bless - ing which we bless. And

WORDS: John B. Foley (1939-)
 MUSIC: John B. Foley (1939-); arr. Gary Alan Smith (1947-), alt.
 Words and Music © 1978 John B. Foley, S.J., and New Dawn Music

G G/C G G/C G D Em Bsus B

we, though man-y through-out the earth,

Em D G Em A7/C# D7 G C G/B G D/F#

we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

Em D Em D

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,

Em F Am D D7 C/D

wom - an or man, one in the Lord, gath - ered to one, no of for all. more. all. One

to Refrain

SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever

wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

MUSIC

What Wondrous Love Is This

LENT

257

What Wondrous Love Is This

The musical score is written in 3/2 time and consists of four systems. Each system includes a treble and bass staff with chords indicated above the notes. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered lines, with some lines continuing across systems.

System 1: Chords: Dm, Am, C/G, Em/G, Dm/F, C, Dm, C, F. Lyrics: 1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

System 2: Chords: C/E, G/D, Am/C, G/B, Am, G/B, C, Dm, C/E, F, C/G, F, C/E. Lyrics: won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down; when I was sink-ing God and to the Lamb I will sing! To God and to the when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

System 3: Chords: Dm, C/E, Am/C, G/B, C, Dm, Am, Em/G, Dm/F, C. Lyrics: this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my down be-neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while mil-lions join the theme, I will free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

System 4: Chords: Dm, C, F, C/E, G/D, Am/C, G/B, Am, G/B, C, Dm. Lyrics: soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul! soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul! sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing! on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

SERVICE OF CONFESSION: God has come to us in Christ, but often we live as if that makes no difference. Let us, on this holy night, confess our sin and brokenness before God. Let us pray. Loving and life-giving God, we confess to you that we prefer darkness over light. We embrace brokenness and division over unity and peace. We are self-indulgent. We exploit others by how we live. Our anger often consumes us. We love worldly goods more than we love our neighbors. We fail to place our trust in you.

Acknowledge our shortcomings and brokenness as we come before you for forgiveness. Move us to offer you our praise and thanksgiving with every breath we take. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Jesus looked up and said to a sinner, “Where are your accusers? Has no one come to condemn you? Then neither do I condemn you. Go, and do not sin again.” We are loved. We are forgiven. We are the children of God! Thanks be to God!

MUSIC

The Old Rugged Cross

The Old Rugged Cross

B \flat B \flat dim7 B \flat E \flat *Adim* E \flat C

1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross, the
 2 O that old rug - ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a
 3 In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine, a
 4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true, its

F7 B \flat /F F7 B \flat B \flat dim7 B \flat

em - blem of suf - fer - ing and shame; and I love that old cross, where the
 won - drous at - trac - tion for me; for the dear Lamb of God left his
 won - drous beau - ty I see; for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus
 shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; then he'll call me some day to my

E \flat *Adim* E \flat C F7 B \flat /F F7 B \flat *Refrain* F F7

dear - est and best for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 glo - ry a - bove to bear it to dark Cal - va - ry. So I'll cher - ish the
 suf - fer - ed and died to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 home far a - way, where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

B \flat B \flat dim7 E \flat /B \flat B \flat B \flat /D E \flat B \flat

old rug - ged cross, till my tro - phies at last I lay down; I will
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

WORDS and MUSIC: George Bennard (1873-1958)

OLD RUGGED CROSS
Irregular

B \flat E \flat B \flat /F F7 B \flat

cling to the old rug - ged cross, and ex - change it some day for a crown.
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

SCRIPTURE: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!*

*Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—*

*² a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!*

*Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;*

*their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.*

*Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.*

*Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.*

*¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?*

*¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;*

call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people.

*Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;*

*gather the children,
even infants at the breast.*

*Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.*

¹⁷ *Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.*

*Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.*

*Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"*

MUSIC

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let Us Break Bread Together

699

Unison
N.C. Eb Cm Ab $\frac{Fm7}{Bb}$ Bb7 Eb $\frac{Ab}{Eb}$ Eb $\frac{Eb}{G}$

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; let us break
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; let us drink
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; let us praise

$\frac{Bb7}{F}$ Cm7 F F7 Bb $\frac{Cm7}{Bb}$ Bb N.C. Eb Gm C7 $\frac{C}{E}$

Refrain

bread to - geth-er on our knees.
wine to - geth-er on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my
God to - geth-er on our knees.

Fm $\frac{Fm}{Eb}$ $\frac{Bb7}{D}$ $\frac{Ab}{C}$ Bb7 Eb Cm Fm7 $\frac{Fm}{Bb}$ Bb7 Eb Ab Eb

face to the ris-ing sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Let us come before the Lord our God in prayer. Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Have mercy upon us. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to the promises declared to all persons in Christ Jesus. And grant, most merciful God, for Jesus' sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: In spite of our tendency to pull apart, in spite of our tenacity to our old ways, our loving God continues to call us back together again, showing us the true nature of forgiveness. God does not keep score of our wrongs or measure how far we have wandered. God welcomes us, like a mother scooping up her lost children, like a father embracing his prodigal offspring. As we are welcomed home, we are encouraged to learn from that forgiveness, to offer it to ourselves and to others again and again as God offers it to us in Jesus Christ, our hope and our home. Amen.

MUSIC

Ah, Holy Jesus

Ah, Holy Jesus

Fm Db Bbm Eb Ab Fm Cm Eb Db Ab C Bbm C

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how have you of - fend - ed,
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on you?
 3 For me, kind Je - sus, was your in - car - na - tion,
 4 There - fore, dear Je - sus, since I can - not pay you,

C Fm Eb Ab Db Bbm Ab C Eb sus Eb Ab Fm Cm Db

that mor - tal judg - ment has on you de - scend - ed? By foes de -
 It is my trea - son, Lord, that has un - done you. 'Twas I, Lord
 your mor - tal sor - row, and your life's ob - la - tion, your death of
 I do a - dore you, and will ev - er pray you, think on your

Ab Eb G Fm Ab Bbm C Fm Ab Bbm Fm Csus C7 Fm

rid - ed, by your own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
 Je - sus, I it was de - nied you; I cru - ci - fied you.
 an - guish and your bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 pit - y and your love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

WORDS: Johann Heermann (1585-1647); tr. Robert Bridges (1844-1930), alt.
 MUSIC: Johann Crüger (1598-1662)

HERZLIEBSTER JESU
 11.11.11.5.

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

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

MUSIC

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

LENT

255

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Db Dbdim7 Db $\frac{Db}{F}$ $\frac{Ab}{Gb}$ $\frac{Db}{F}$ Ebm7 Ab7 Db

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I glad - ly take my stand—
 2 Up - on that cross of Je - sus my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

$\frac{F7}{C}$ Bbm $\frac{F7}{C}$ $\frac{Bbm}{Db}$ $\frac{Bb7}{D}$ Ebm $\frac{Bbm}{F}$ Gb6 Gb7 F

the shad - ow of a might - y Rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face,

Db Db₂ Db Db₂ Db $\frac{Gb}{Db}$ Db7 Gb $\frac{Bb}{F}$ Bb Ebm

a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 and from my smit - ten heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess—
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

Ab7 $\frac{Gb}{Ab}$ Ab7 Db $\frac{Db7}{F}$ Gb $\frac{Db}{Ab}$ $\frac{Fm}{Ab}$ Ab7 Db

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
 the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

SERVICE OF CONFESSION: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us pray: Eternal God, whose Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path, we recognize and confess that we have failed to respond fully to your gracious presence in our lives. Through Jesus Christ you have offered us new life, fulfillment, and the freedom to serve you. We confess that we are captive to sin, that our sin binds us with false pride, and that the wrong we do is made worse by the good we leave undone. Reconcile us to you and to all people. God of mercy, forgive all our sin and strengthen us anew for life as you intend it. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Friend. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

MUSIC

Amazing Grace!

Amazing Grace!

422

Chords: G, G/D, D7, Em, C, G, G/D, D/C, G/B

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his word my hope se - cures;
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,

Chords: G, G/B, C, G, G/B, Em, G/D, D7, G

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be-lieved!
 he will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 51:1-17

*Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.*

*² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.*

*⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.*

*⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.*

*⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.*

*⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.*

*⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.*

*¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

*¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.*

*¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

*¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.*

*¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.*

*¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.*

*¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.*

*¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 261

F C F Gm D7 Gm F C F

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

Bb F C F C7 F C F C F Gm D7

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

Gm F C F C7 Dm Gm7 Am C7 F

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
MUSIC: Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

HAMBURG
L.M.

BENEDICTION: Seeing that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, the faithful of all times who have given themselves to God's loving will, let us run with patience the path God sets before us, encouraged by the love of God, renewed by the grace of Christ, and empowered by the presence of the Spirit, now and forevermore. Amen.

FEBRUARY 17, 2021
ASH WEDNESDAY



You are God's and to God you shall return.

ASH WEDNESDAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Ash Wednesday observance.

Wednesday Isaiah 58:1-12	Worship God by showing justice
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10	Ambassadors for Christ
Psalms 51:1-17	A prayer for cleansing
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	The practice of faith

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday:

Merciful God, you love all that you have created; create in me, O Lord, a clean heart through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, as you share with us your food from creation, help us to share bread with the hungry. Amen. (Isaiah 58:7)

A Blessing to Give:

May your heart be filled with joy and your soul rejoice. (Psalm 51:8)



FEBRUARY 17, 2021

HYMN FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God



ASH WEDNESDAY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that you regret or makes you sad?
- What is something that brings you joy?
- How does knowing that you are loved by God move you from regrets and sadness to joy?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 51:1-17.

These words are poetic, beautiful, and have been used frequently in the church. They offer a contemplative mood as words used in the offertory (vv. 10-12) and an expression of confidence during the morning prayer service (v. 15). For Ash Wednesday, the words communicate our desire for repentance and renewal. What can be overlooked is the focus on joy that this psalm desires: “Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice” (v. 8); and, “Restore to me the joy of your salvation” (v. 12). It is hard not to associate Ash Wednesday with the piety of giving something up for the Lenten season. Perhaps this is the year to give up sadness and to focus on the joy God wants for us and the praise we give our merciful God. Remorse and confession of sins is an appropriate practice for Lent and throughout the year. However, the outcome of our Christian faith is to be freed from our brokenness that we may be people of joy and gladness. Contemplate your desire and need for forgiveness. How do you experience God’s mercy and steadfast love in a way that brings you joy?

Pray: Loving God, as we begin a new season of Lent, give us new hearts to love you and fill us with joy in your presence through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE



Lent is a season for serving and giving. Consider doing a “30-Minute Service Challenge” this Lent. Each week, commit to an act of community service for 30 minutes. This may involve contributing time to a community program, doing something kind for a neighbor, visiting a person who is elderly or homebound, or helping someone who has a particular need. Each time you finish your service, think or talk about what it meant to you and those you served.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



On this Ash Wednesday, do some simple ritual act that keeps your focus on God and God’s word. Perhaps you fast by eating simple meals or skipping a meal all together and use the extra time to read the Bible passages for Ash Wednesday. For example, pray Psalm 51:1-17 as a prayer of repentance and close with the words: **You are God’s, and to God you shall return.**

