

**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**  
**REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST**

**7:00 p.m. ~ Ash Wednesday 2024**

## PRELUDE

“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”

Johann Pachelbel

*Organ*

## WELCOME

## CALL to WORSHIP

“Now, Even Now, Declare a Fast”

arr. Kevin Hildebrand

*Voices of Peace; Becky Cotton, horn*

## OPENING SENTENCES and INVOCATION

P: “Yet, even now,” declares the Lord, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;”

**C: “Rend your hearts and not your garments.”**

P: Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C: Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P: What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

**C: By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?**

P: Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus – were baptized into His death?

**C: We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death –In order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**

P: I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live,

**C: But Christ lives in me.**

P: The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God,

**C: who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

P: In your baptism, you received the sign of the cross on your forehead and on your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ, the crucified.

**C: The sign of the cross always reminds us who we are and to Whom we belong.**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen. We are marked with God's name, and we now live under the sign of the cross!**

## OPENING HYMN “Sunday’s Palms are Wednesday’s Ashes”

### CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: As we begin this Lenten season, we may not be wearing sackcloth and ashes, but we are heeding our Lord’s call to “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Together, we join in King David’s prayer of confession in Psalm 51.

**C: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

**C: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,**

P: Who forgives all your iniquity,

**C: Who heals all your diseases,**

P: Who redeems your life from the pit,

**C: Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

P: Who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

**C: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.**

P: He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.

**C: The LORD is merciful and gracious,**

P: Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**C: He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.**

P: He does not deal with us according to our sins,

**C: Nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

P: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

**C: So great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;**

P: As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

**C: As a father shows compassion to His children,**

P: So the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.

**C: For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.**

P: Even though we are dust and ashes, God removes our sin and makes us whiter than snow through the blood of Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **RESPONSE “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”**

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Joel 2:12-19 [ESV]**

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. The Lord answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

#### **HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9 [ESV]**

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

**STATEMENT of FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed*

**RESPONSE** “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

**SERMON** “THE IDOL OF LEGACY”

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

arr. Sandra Eithun

*Dona Nobis Pacem Handbells*

**PRAYERS of the CHURCH**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**WORDS of INSTITUTION**

**THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

**“O The Blood”**

**“His Mercy Is More”**

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”**

**POSTLUDE**

**“Prelude in G Major”**

*Organ*

Johann Gottfried Walther



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