

## Order Of Worship

# Ash Wednesday

PRELUDE "Audi, benigne conditor" Gerald Near

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

O Kind Creator, bow thine ear, to mark the cry, to know the tear, Before thy throne of mercy spent, in this thy holy fast of Lent.

CALL TO WORSHIP Kathryn Ophardt

Leader: We come into a time of repentance, of self-

reflection, and humility, resting in God's steadfast

love.

People: Together, let us seek God's mercy.

Leader: We join God's desire for truth in our inward being.

People: Together, let us seek God's wisdom.

Leader: We profess that God is our deliverer and redeemer.

People: Together, let us seek to find rest in God.

\* OPENING HYMN #423

SARADAY

"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Leader: Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you

breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy. Open our hearts and minds to receive your Word, in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

HYMN #814 "In God Alone" MON ÂME SE REPOSE

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Kathryn Ophardt

Ecclesiastes 3:16-22

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.

"We Are Dust and God Is God"

#### LITANY OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: Let us pray.

People: 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.

Leader: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and

mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others

as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have not listened 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.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past

unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience

in our lives,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our

exploitation of other people,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of

those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and

comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our

failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we

have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and

cruelty,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts

toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and

contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our

lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from

us.

People: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is

great.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

#### **INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE** The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Siblings in Christ, every year at the beginning of Lent we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life and marks the sincere penitence of this community. I invite you to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, prayer, and fasting, by works of love, reading and meditating on the Word of God, and through service to others.

#### IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader:

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen.

### \* HYMN #433 DURING IMPOSITION OF ASHES

**PHOENIX** 

"Sign Us With Ashes"

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Kathryn Ophardt

**POSTLUDE** 

Dr. Moore, organ

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE PREACHING: LITURGISTS: Kathryn Ophardt

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

ORGANIST: CANTOR: Dr. Edward Alan Moore David Jennings-Smith