



ASH WEDNESDAY

*Tear Your Hearts and
Not Your Garments*

*For dust you are and to
dust you shall return*

**Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,
which before the cross we spend,
life and health and peace possessing
from the sinner's dying friend.**

**Here we rest in wonder, viewing
all our sins on Jesus laid;
here we see redemption flowing
from the sacrifice he made.**

**Here we find the dawn of heaven
while upon the cross we gaze,
see our trespasses forgiven,
and our songs of triumph raise.**

**Oh, that, near the cross abiding,
we may to the Savior cleave,
naught with him our hearts dividing,
all for him content to leave!**

**Lord, in loving contemplation
fix our hearts and eyes on you
till we taste your full salvation
and your unveiled glory view.**

Pastor: Brothers and Sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, with all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve God, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but that we turn to him and live.

GATHERING offered responsively

Pastor: Lord God, be with us as we begin our Lenten journey.

Congregation: May we grow in discipleship and come to know the hope and promise of the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Prepare us now for this time of worship,

C: And may the power and promise of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us.

P: So we begin in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

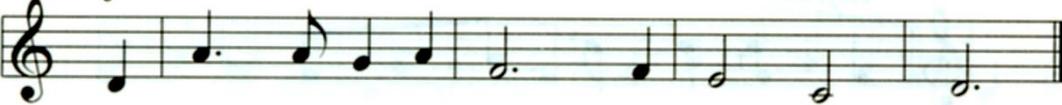
PRAYER OF THE DAY

ALL: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Samuel 12:1-13

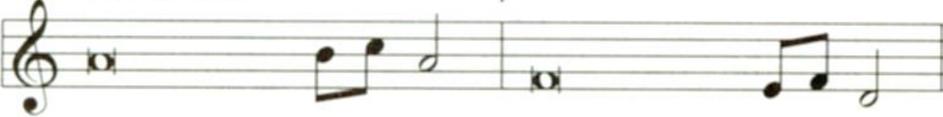
RESPONSE: (printed on next page for ease of singing)

Refrain



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Psalm tone



Have mercy on *me*, O God,*
according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my iniquity,*
and cleanse me from my sin.

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

Refrain

Against you, you only, *have* I sinned*
and done what is evil in your sight.

Surely I was sinful at birth,*
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

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

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

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

RESPONSE:



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op-pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, Nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when the flood is past,
From self - ish pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste your prom - ised rest.
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out your cho - sen way.
I may th' e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share your joy at last.

THIRD LESSON: Luke 18:9-14

HYMN: *With Broken Heart* **CW 303**

**With broken heart and contrite sigh
A trembling sinner, Lord, I cry:
Thy pardoning grace is rich and free
O God, be merciful to me.**

**I smite upon my troubled breast,
With deep and conscience guilt oppressed;
Christ and His cross my only plea:
O God, be merciful to me.**

**Far off I stand with tearful eyes,
Nor dare uplift them to the skies;
But Thou dost all my anguish see:
O God, be merciful to me.**

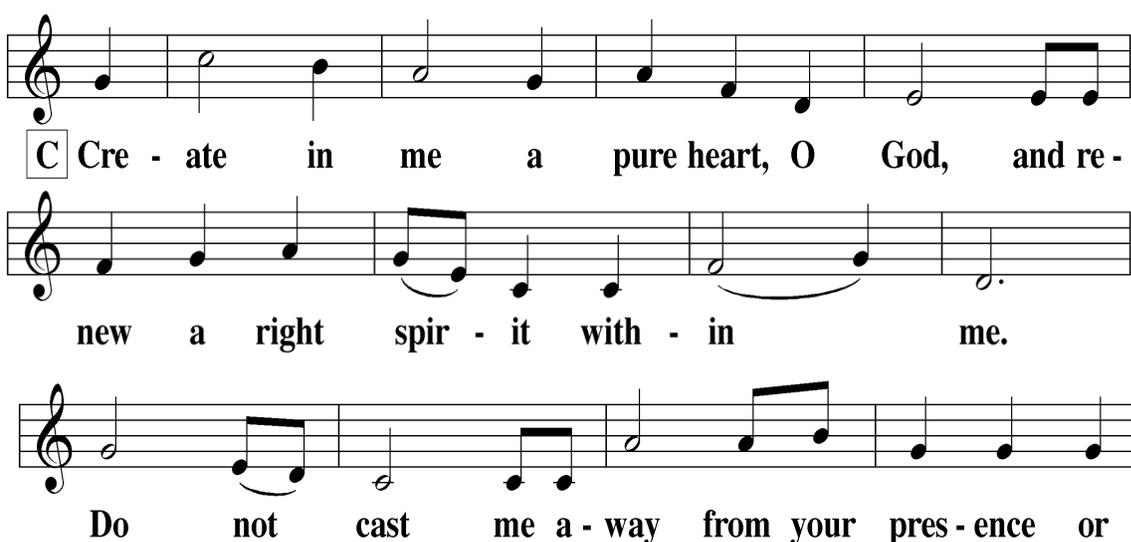
**Nor alms, nor deeds that I have done,
Can for a single sin atone;
To Calvary alone I flee:
O God, be merciful to me.**

**And when, redeemed from sin and hell,
With all the ransomed throng I dwell,
My raptured song shall ever be,
God has been merciful to me.**

MEDITATION: GENESIS 3:19 AND JOEL 2:12-13

MARKED FOR DEATH, MARKED FOR LIFE

RESPONSE:



C Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.
Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or

take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P: How shall we stand before God this day?

C: With a broken and contrite heart that He will not reject.

P: God will take away our sins and strengthen His righteousness in us.

C: 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. (Ps. 103:8-10)

P: Compassionate and gracious God,

C:

Sung with hymn 303 “With Broken Heart”
♪ With broken heart and contrite sigh,

**a trembling sinner, Lord, I cry.
Your pard'ning grace is rich and free
O God, be merciful to me!**

**No gifts, no deeds that I have done
can for a single sin atone.
To Calvary alone I flee
O God, be merciful to me!**

P: The Lord has heard your plea. In His grace, He has washed you clean. Not with soap and water, but with the blood of Jesus Christ, the lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world. You are holy and righteous in His sight. In the name and by the command of God I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN:

Drawn to the Cross

CW 387

**Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed
with healing gifts for souls distressed,
to find in you my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**How well you know my griefs and fears,
your grace abused, my misspent years;
so now to you with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**Wash me and take away each stain;
let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing through your cross and pain,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**To pledge my labor willingly,
which shall so sweet a service be
that angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.**

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

DISTRIBUTION

SUNG RESPONSE



C In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de -
part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal -
va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple, a
light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry, the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

P: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: Jesus, Grant Thy Balm and Healing CW 121 v.1-2

**Jesus, grant that balm and healing
in your holy wounds I find,
ev'ry hour that I am feeling
pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
show the peril, and from sinning
keep me from its first beginning.**

**Should some lust or sharp temptation
fascinate my sinful mind,
let me think about your passion,
and new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard,
let me then be on my guard,
saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"
that the tempter flee confounded.**

