



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

DIVINE SERVICE

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

AS WE GATHER: This Lent, we will gather for a season to reflect on the prayers of God's people. We read throughout the bible of God's people crying out to Him in prayer. And we also read of His gracious and loving response to the ones He has created in His image, redeemed by the blood of His Son, and saved by the power of His Holy Spirit. We begin tonight with a focus on the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples, and a reminder of our need for repentance and the forgiveness that He won for us at the cross. The Imposition of Ashes is a reminder of the ancient practice of God's people who, when confronted with their sin, would cover themselves with sackcloth, a rough, uncomfortable clothing, and ashes or dust as a reminder of their sinfulness and need for repentance. Today it serves as a reminder for us of our desperate need for a savior, and the price that Jesus paid on the cross for our sins.

## INVOCATION

## ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS

**P**: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times, the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on God's Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

*Silence for reflection.*

## LITANY

- P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** O Christ,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** O Christ,  
**C** hear us.  
**P** God the Father in heaven,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** God the Holy Spirit,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** Be gracious to us.  
**C** Spare us, good Lord.  
**P** Be gracious to us.

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** We poor sinners implore You

**C to hear us, O Lord.**

**P** To prosper the teaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C we implore You to hear us.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ,

Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

+ THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES +

*Please approach down the center aisle. After receiving the ashes upon your forehead, return to your seats using the side aisles.*

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

*Stand*

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

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

PSALM

*51:1–3, 10–12*

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your | steadfast love;

**C: according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

P: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me | from my sin!

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

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**C: Cast me not away from Your | presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

P: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

**C: and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**A: 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.**

KYRIE

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

FIRST READING

*Joel 2:12-19*

“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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

*2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

VERSE FOR LENT

**C** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

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

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when 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.

“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.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

#### APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

*When You Pray*

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Think on Me #610 Vs 1-4

#### SERMON

*The Prayers of God's People*

#### OFFERING

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God, when Your people suffered from slavery, You gave them a foretaste of freedom; when Your children wandered in the wilderness,



You fed them with the bread of angels; and when Your disciples were caught in deadly conflicts, You prepared for them the Passover. Be with us now, as we hear the echoes of the prayers of Your people. Open our ears to hear Your gracious and loving response, open our eyes to see Your acts of love as You sent Your Son to save them and us. And open our hearts to trust that in all places and at all times You will continue to hear our prayers and respond with Your best for us. Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen.

#### 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;  
and 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.**

#### BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN      Chief of Sinners Though I Be      #611 Vs 1,2&5

## Wednesday Worship Series 2024 – 5:00PM Worship/5:45 Supper

# THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### Thoughts From John, the one whom Jesus loved

*“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”* John 14:26

**Wednesday Series – The Prayers of God's People** – from the beginning, God's people have cried out to Him in prayer. And God has been answering those prayers faithfully as we have seen recorded in Scripture and written on our own hearts by the power of His Holy Spirit. Through these mid-week services, we will seek to be drawn closer to Him in worship through worship, praise, scripture and prayer. Each week, during this season of Lent, Our Father calls us to be mindful of our need for Jesus, our Savior.

**February 21<sup>st</sup>**    The Prayer of Daniel  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 32-35, 39-40; Daniel 6:16-24

**February 28<sup>th</sup>**    The Prayer of David  
Acts 3:17-26; Psalm 51:1-19

**March 6<sup>th</sup>**        The Prayer of Hannah  
Mark 5:25-35; 1 Samuel 1:9-20

**March 13<sup>th</sup>**      The Prayer of Mary  
Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Luke 1:45-55

**March 20<sup>th</sup>**      The Prayer of Jesus for You  
Acts 1:12-26; John 17:20-26

**March 28<sup>th</sup>**            **Maundy Thursday**            5:00 PM (*Holy Communion*)  
The Prayer of Jesus for His Disciples  
Exodus 12:1–14; 1 Corinthians 11:23–32; John 13:1–17, 31b–35

**March 29<sup>th</sup>**            **Good Friday**                    3:00 PM  
The Prayer of Jesus for the World

# Weekend Worship Series 2024

## DETOUR AHEAD: FOLLOW THE SIGNS

*In the northern states they have only two seasons, winter, and construction season. Here in Florida, it seems, because of the weather, it is always construction season and those detour signs can break out anywhere or anytime. Life in Israel and especially around Jerusalem had been moving in fairly consistent directions for many years. But when Jesus began His public ministry, and began His final steps on the road to the Cross, detour signs, yellow cones, and warning signs went up everywhere. And this Detour doesn't end at the Cross, nor at the Empty Tomb. Stick with us for the weeks that come after Easter as well for the rest of the journey as we Follow the Signs.*

**February 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**

DO NOT ENTER: Jesus could do no mighty works in His hometown  
Mark 6:1-6

**February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**

ROAD WORK AHEAD: Jesus responds to a plea for healing...  
Mark 7:24-30

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

DANGEROUS INTERSECTION: Jesus explains that following Him will be dangerous  
Matthew 10:32-42

**March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**

DANGER: FALLING ROCKS: The Pharisees plan to kill Jesus  
John 11:43-53

**March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**

ONE WAY: Jesus shares with the crowd that there is only ONE WAY  
John 12:20-33

# HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND**

ROAD NARROWS: The road down which Jesus leads the Pharisees begins to narrow

Luke 19:29-40

**March 28<sup>th</sup> MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:00 PM**

The Prayer of Jesus for His Disciples

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**March 29<sup>th</sup> GOOD FRIDAY 3:00 PM**

The Prayer of Jesus for the World

**March 30<sup>th</sup> EASTER VIGIL 6:00 PM LIGHT**

AHEAD: We wait with the disciples for the light ahead.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> EASTER SUNRISE 7:00 AM Outdoors**

RESURRECTION REALIZED: Mary realizes that the promised resurrection has occurred.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 AM**

SIGNS OF LIFE (AED): The empty tomb and the burial clothes laying there are signs of life.

Luke 24:1-12

**April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> NO U-TURNS**: Jesus appears to the

disciples and there is no turning back.

John 20:19-29

**April 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> EXIT HERE**: Jesus shares with His disciples

His exit strategy.

Acts 1:1-11