

P. Accept our repentance, Lord for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C. accept our repentance, Lord.

P. For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

C. accept our repentance, Lord.

P. For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

C. accept our repentance, Lord.

P. Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C. Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen

Sit

The Imposition of Ashes:

Those who wish to receive ashes come forward and kneel before the altar. The ministers apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After all have received ashes and returned to their places,
all stand and continue*

P. Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C. that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P. By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

C. bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The minister addresses the congregation.

P. Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen

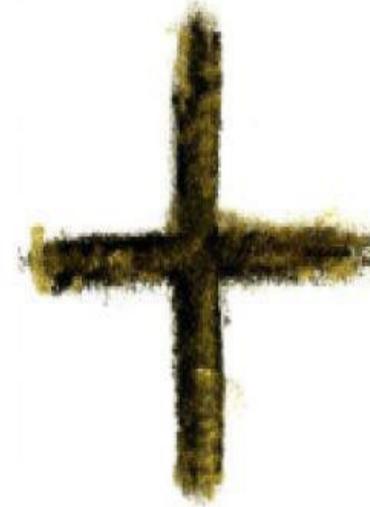
Period of Silence

Prayer of the Day:

C. Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please exit the sanctuary quietly.

Ash Wednesday



Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

Ash Wednesday
Plattville Lutheran Church

Silent Meditation

The 1st Lesson: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

The 2nd Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Homily

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;*
in your great compassion blot out 'my offenses.

Wash me through and through 'from my wickedness,*
and cleanse me 'from my sin.

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

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

And so you are justified 'when you speak*
and upright 'in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked 'from my birth,*
a sinner from my 'mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth 'deep within me,*
and will make me understand 'wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I 'shall be pure;*
wash me, and I shall be 'clean indeed.

Make me hear of 'joy and gladness,*
that the body you have broken 'may rejoice.

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

Create in me a clean 'heart, O God,*
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away 'from your presence,*
and take not your Holy 'Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving 'help again,*
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways 'to the wicked,*
and sinners shall re 'turn to you.

Deliver me from 'death, O God,*
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of 'my salvation.

Open my 'lips, O Lord,*
and my mouth shall pro 'claim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have 'offered sacrifice,*
but you take no delight 'in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a 'troubled spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will 'not despise.
Be favorable and gracious to Zion,*
and rebuild the walls 'of Jerusalem.

Glory 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

P. Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love 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. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but turn to him and live. As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love -- the discipline of Lent -- help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

The Confession:

P. Most Holy and merciful Father:

C. 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.

P. 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.

C. Have mercy on us, Lord.

P. 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.

C. Have mercy on us, Lord.

P. We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C. we confess to you, Lord.

P. Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

C. we confess to you, Lord.

P. Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C. we confess to you, Lord.

P. Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C. we confess to you, Lord.

P. Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C. we confess to you, Lord.