

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2010

7:00 P.M.

PRELUDE Von Gott will ich nicht lassen

Johann Michael Bach

From God I Shall Not Turn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,

People: **so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

INVITATION TO THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

*HYMN NO. 85 (blue hymnal) What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(The people uniting.)*

Gathered in this place, with our sin and our unrighteousness, with the injustice of the world, and a lack of love in our hearts, we turn to you, O God. We long for a promise that will not fade. We yearn for a forgiveness that will cleanse and redeem. We look for a way that will lead us to life. Dust is all we are. But you are more, much more. Your mercy, your grace, your love are so much more, more than we deserve, more than we can measure. Hear our prayers, O God. Hear us, redeem us, restore us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Joel 2:12-13

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

READING FROM PROPHECY

Isaiah 58:1-12

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

IMPOSITION OF ASHES *(The people uniting.)*

Almighty God, you have created us out of 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. Amen.

The people are invited to come forward to receive ashes: Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

THE GREAT LITANY

Prayer of Approach to God

O God the Father, creator of heaven and earth,

Have mercy on us.

O God the Son, redeemer of the world,

Have mercy on us.

O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,

Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons and one God,

Have mercy on us.

Prayers For Deliverance

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forebears. Spare us, good Lord, spare your people whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.

Spare us, good Lord.

From all spiritual blindness; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred and malice; and from all want of charity,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all deadly sin; and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt for your Word and commandments,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From earthquake and tempest; from drought, fire and flood; from civil strife and violence; from war and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

Good Lord, deliver us.

Prayer Recalling Christ's Saving Work

By the mystery of your holy incarnation, by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by your proclamation of the kingdom,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your bloody sweat and bitter grief; by your cross and suffering; and by your precious death and burial,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In our times of trouble; in our times of prosperity; in the hour of death, and on the day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

Prayers of Intercession

Receive our prayers, O Lord our God.

Hear us, good Lord.

Govern and direct your holy church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.

Hear us, good Lord.

Enlighten all ministers with true knowledge and understanding of your Word, that by their preaching and living they may declare it clearly and show its truth.

Hear us, good Lord.

Encourage and prosper your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out laborers into the harvest.

Hear us, good Lord.

Bless and keep your people, that all may find and follow their true vocation and ministry.

Hear us, good Lord.

Give us a heart to love and reverence you, that we may diligently live according to your commandments.

Hear us, good Lord.

To all your people give grace to hear and receive your Word, and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Hear us, good Lord.

Strengthen those who stand firm in the faith, encourage the fainthearted, raise up those who fall, and finally give us the victory.

Hear us, good Lord.

To all nations grant unity, peace and concord, and to all people give dignity, food, and shelter.

Hear us, good Lord.

Grant us abundant harvests, strength and skill to conserve the resources of the earth, and wisdom to use them well.

Hear us, good Lord.

Enlighten with your Spirit all who teach and all who learn.

Hear us, good Lord.

Come to the help of all who are in danger, necessity, and trouble; protect all who travel by land, air, or water; and show your pity on all prisoners and captives.

Hear us, good Lord.

Strengthen and preserve all women who are in childbirth, and all young children, and comfort the aged, the bereaved, and the lonely.

Hear us, good Lord.

Defend and provide for the widowed and the orphaned, the refugees and the homeless, the unemployed, and all who are desolate and oppressed.

Hear us, good Lord.

Heal those who are sick in body or mind, and give skill and compassion to all who care for them.

Hear us, good Lord.

Grant us true repentance, forgive our sins, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your Holy Word.

Hear us, good Lord.

Concluding Prayers

Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

grant us peace.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The people will greet their neighbors with the words, "**Peace be with you.**" The appropriate response is: "**And also with you.**"

Departure in meditative silence.

A Lenten Series will be offered each Wednesday evening beginning February 24 through March 31. We will gather at 5:45 p.m. for a simple meal of soup and bread, followed by a service of evening prayers in the sanctuary. This reflective time focuses on scripture, song and prayer as we prepare ourselves for Easter.

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