

Ash Wednesday Service for Families and Individuals

You are welcome to worship with us on Facebook and/or YouTube. You may also do the following liturgy by yourself or with your family.

Said Together

Dear God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive everyone who is sorry: We ask you to be in our hearts, to give us courage to know when we are wrong, and always come to you, because with you, forgiveness is always possible; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A reading from Matthew

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever 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 whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Spend a minute thinking or talking about the passage

The first Christians experienced when Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the dead seriously. As a church, we remember this time and spend a season with prayer and fasting. Many times during this season, the Church has prepared people to get baptized and taught them how to follow Jesus. It is also a time, when we forgive and are forgiven, remembering that we are always welcome back to the church and to God. We remember this in the Gospels.

We are invited, in the name of the Church, to the observe a holy Lent, looking at how we live our lives, asking for forgiveness and forgiving, by praying, fasting, and living simply; and by reading the Bible. As we begin this journey of Lent, we prayerfully kneel, stand, or sit.

Kneel, stand, or sit quietly for one minute. Then, dipping your thumb into the ashes, place a cross on your forehead or on your family member's forehead. If you do not have ashes, simply make the sign of the cross on their forehead, saying:

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

Then say the Litany of Forgiveness

February 17, 2021

For the harsh words spoken
We're sorry, God.

For silence that wounds
We're sorry, God.

For hands that hit
We're sorry, God.

For ears that close
We're sorry, God.

For gifts not shared
We're sorry, God.

For (include your own words here)
We're sorry, God.

For hearts not open
We're sorry, God.

Create in us a clean heart, O God.
And renew a right spirit within us.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive you all our sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in
eternal life. *Amen.*

Exchange the Peace

The peace of the Lord be Always with you, And also with you!

Saying together and holding hands if possible:

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.