

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wake Forest Presbyterian Church
February 17, 2021

Please join us by **reading/singing** aloud the words in bold.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INSTRUCTION FOR THE SERVICE

OPENING SENTENCES AND OPENING PRAYER

CONFESSING OUR SIN TOGETHER AND UNISON SCRIPTURE READING

It's true. All of us are sinners. Even on our best days with our best behavior, we fall short. Admit it...and the opportunity for repentance will present itself. Let us confess our sin using words of Psalm 51.

Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love! Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

² **Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin!**

³ **Because I know my wrongdoings; my sin is always right in front of me.**

⁴ **I've sinned against you — you alone. I've committed evil in your sight. That's why you are justified when you render your verdict, completely correct when you issue your judgement.**

⁵ **Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin, from the moment my mother conceived me.**

⁶ **And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places; you teach me wisdom in the most secret place.**

⁷ **Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow.**

⁸ **Let me hear joy and celebration again; let the bones you crushed rejoice one more.**

⁹ **Hide your face from my sins; wipe away all my guilty deeds!**

¹⁰ **Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!**

¹¹ **Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me.**

¹² **Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit.**

¹³ **Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways, and sinners will come back to you.**

¹⁴ **Deliver me from violence, God, God of my salvation, so that my tongue can sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵ **Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.**

¹⁶ **You don't want sacrifices. If I gave an entirely burned offering, you wouldn't be pleased.**

¹⁷ **A broken spirit is my sacrifice, God. You won't despise a heart, God, that is broken and crushed.**

¹⁸ **Do good things for Zion by your favor. Rebuild Jerusalem's walls.**

¹⁹ **Then you will again want sacrifices of righteousness — entirely burned offerings and complete offerings. Then bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar.**

Hear our confession, Lord, in Jesus' name.

(silent confession)

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our hope is in the name of the Lord. From the God of all creation, we are given clean hearts and a new and right spirit. In the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, we return to God, renewed, cleansed, forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION ON PSALM 51

“Our Sin Exposed”

RECEIVING THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AND SPECIAL MUSIC

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes remind us of our mortality and penitence and teach us again that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

RESPONSIVE CLOSING PRAYER

God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will.

Keep our feet firmly on the path where Christ leads us; make our mouths speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill us with the life that is Christ within us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever,

Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday each year. It is a time of penitence, discipline, and renewal. In the Ash Wednesday service we are reminded of our mortality, we confess our sins, and we experience forgiveness through Christ's death and resurrection. It marks the beginning of our journey toward Easter.

The “imposition of ashes” is a central part of the service. Typically, we are invited to come forward to receive the ashes on our forehead or hand. In Scripture, ashes serve both as a symbol of mortality and as a sign of mourning and repentance. But this year, find a black crayon, a magic marker (water based), or ashes from your fire place or grill. We will then put the sign of the cross on our foreheads or hands, together.

Remember this: Neither sin nor death are the final word. We leave the service in confidence and gratitude. Christ has conquered death, and nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord..

Wake Forest Presbyterian Church

12605 Capital Blvd | Wake Forest, NC 27587 | www.wakeforestpres.org