

**March 5, 2025**  
**Ash Wednesday**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

*John 3:17; Ps. 46:1-3*

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,  
but that the world might be saved through him.

**God's love endures forever.**

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though the waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**God's love endures forever.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT**

**PSALM**

*Psalm 51:1-17*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
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 offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

**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.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

O LORD, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**LITANY OF PENITENCE**

Holy and merciful God, 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.  
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.  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have not listened 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.  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.  
For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,  
**have mercy on us, O God.**

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways  
and our exploitation of other people,  
**have mercy on us, O God.**

For our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,  
**have mercy on us, O God.**

For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,  
**have mercy on us, O God.**

For our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,  
**have mercy on us, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God,  
for the wrongs we have done.  
For our neglect of human need and suffering  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,  
**have mercy on us, O God.**

For all false judgments,  
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and for our prejudice and contempt  
toward those who differ from us,  
**have mercy on us, O God.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
**have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God of our salvation,  
and show us your steadfast love.  
**Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

*Matt. 11:28-30; Matt. 5:6*

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy ...  
... who forever sing to the glory of your name:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** *Isa. 6:3; Ps. 118:25-26*  
**God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty ...  
... Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us ...  
... now and forever. **Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*1 Cor. 11:23-26*

... The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
**have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
**have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
**grant us peace.**

**COMMUNION**

*All are welcome at the table of the Lord.  
You will be invited to come forward.  
A gluten-free option is available.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of compassion,  
through your Son Jesus Christ  
you reconciled your people to yourself.  
Following his example of prayer and fasting,  
may we obey you with willing hearts  
and serve one another in holy love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 O.T. page 650

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Isaiah 58:1-12 O.T. page 524

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** 2 Cor. 5:20b—6:10 N.T. page 139

**GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 N.T. page 4

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Almighty God,  
you have created us out of the dust of the earth.  
May these ashes be for us  
a sign of our mortality and penitence,  
for it is only by your gracious gift  
are we given everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*You will be invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.*

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

*After all who desire ashes have received them:*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**  
By the cross and passion of our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints**  
**to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

**BLESSING** *1 Thess. 5:23*

May the God of peace  
make you holy in every way  
and keep your whole being—  
spirit, soul, and body—  
free from every fault  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**CHARGE**  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**CREDITS**

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**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

***Palm Sunday***

April 13

10:00 am

***Maundy Thursday***

April 17

7:00 pm

***Good Friday***

April 18

12:00 noon

***Easter***

April 20

10:00 am

**Mason  
First Presbyterian Church**

**March 5, 2025  
Ash Wednesday**



*Alms to the Poor*  
by Michel Martin Drolling, 19th century

*The fruit of the Spirit is  
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,  
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*  
(Galatians 5:22-23)