

## Ash Wednesday

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in  
Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of  
compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us.**

**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**

**Rebuild what we have ruined  
and mend what we have torn.**

**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**

**Make us alive in the Spirit**

**to follow in the way of Jesus,**

**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails.

The promise rests on grace:

by the saving love of Jesus Christ,

the wisdom and power of God,

your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them  
no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus.

**Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

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 receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Scripture: Psalm 46:10** Be still and know that I am God

### Reflection

As we set out on this Lenten Journey, a *Journey Toward Wholeness*, we would do well to ask ourselves what exactly wholeness is. While the Lent intent is often personal fasting, reflection, and repentance, the result is often communal. After all, isn't what God intended?

We start Lent hearing the words, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words return us to our beginning, when we were dust, when God breathed life into the nothingness that was and what came next was God's people. Beloved.

Perhaps the question we should be asking isn't, "what IS wholeness?" but, rather we should ask, "wholeness for whom?" That answer is God. "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." As God's people, we are whole, and we are wholly God's with all our flaws. And it is good. Not just as individuals, but as people of faith, the Body of Christ.

You are invited to take the small baggie of ashes, add a small drop of oil and mix it together. Then place your thumb or finger in the ashes and make the sign of the cross on your forehead. As we make this mark we are reminded of our immortality. We are reminded that though our humanness is messy, we are God's. The glistening beauty of a watery baptismal cross is covered with the ashen mark of dust. To dust we shall return.

We live in that promise, journeying towards wholeness as the body of Christ. Thanks be to God. AMEN

You are invited to use the At-Home Communion Liturgy for Ash Wednesday Communion, or come for Ash Wednesday Carport Carside Communion and blessing of ashes at 11 am or 6 pm.