

What do these ashes mean?
I am a sinner under God's judgment.

What does the cross signify?
My only hope of salvation, Christ Jesus, my savior and Lord.

Do you believe God's promise of forgiveness in Christ Jesus?
Yes, I believe that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

By God's command and promise, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Chief of Sinners though I Be" (LBW 306)

As we exit the sanctuary, you are invited to receive the cross of ashes as a sign of God's judgment of our sin and of our saving death in Christ.

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

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

Psalm 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love.

In Your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness.

And cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

Against You only have I sinned,

and done what is evil in Your sight,

And so you are justified when You judge

and blameless when You speak.

Indeed, I was born guilty,

a sinner from my mother's womb.

You desire truth deep within me.

You will teach me wisdom in my heart.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure.

Wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear joy and gladness,

That the body You have broken may rejoice.

Hide Your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, O Lord, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and renew a right spirit within me.

Hymn: "Just As I Am"

(LBW 296)

The Prayers of the Church

Each petition ends with: "Lord, in Your mercy..."

The congregation responds with: "Hear our prayer."

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture: *Psalm 131, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 5:3, 11:25-30*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *"Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit"*

Hymn: "I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

(LBW 305)

You shall have no other gods.

Lord God, I have not feared, loved, and trusted You above all else. I have not loved You with all my heart and soul, mind and strength.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Lord God, I have neglected to honor Your name with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Lord God, I have neglected Your Word, failed to regard it as holy, and failed to gladly hear and learn it.

Honor your father and mother.

Lord God, I have not honored those You have placed in authority over me.

You shall not kill.

Lord God, I have hurt others with angry attitudes, words, and deeds. I have responded to the needy with indifference and hardness of heart.

You shall not commit adultery.

Lord God, I have failed to honor the gift of marriage and to love and respect all people with purity of thought and deed.

You shall not steal.

Lord God, I have failed to respect the property and physical needs of my neighbors in this world.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Lord God, I have failed to defend others, speak well of them, and explain their actions in the kindest way.

You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's.

Lord God, I have been more ready to desire what I do not have than to give thanks for what I do have.

Let us then seek God's merciful forgiveness.

O God, our heavenly Father, I confess to You that I have grievously sinned against You, not only by outward transgressions, but also by secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully understand, but which are all known to You. I beg of You, out of Your great goodness, to have mercy on me, and for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ my Lord, to forgive my sins and to graciously help me in my weakness. Amen.