

The Chapel in the Pines

March 5, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.



*****Please enter our Ash Wednesday service in silence*****

As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship let us meditate on these words from the prophet, Joel and in silence become aware of the Spirit of God that is with us now and always:

*Sound the alarm in Jerusalem!
Let the blast of the warning trumpet be heard upon my holy mountain!
Let everyone tremble in fear, for the day of the Lord's judgment approaches.*

*...That is why the Lord says, "Turn to me now, while there is time.
Give me all your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, mourning.
Let your remorse tear at your hearts and not your garments."*

*Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful.
He is not easily angered;
he is full of kindness and anxious not to punish you.*

*Sound the trumpet in Zion!
Call a fast and gather all the people together for a solemn meeting.*

The Chiming of the Trinity

***The Silent Processional**

Would you please stand as the Light of Christ enters the sanctuary.

***The Call to Worship**

We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins,
aware of our frailty and our failings.

We come seeking God's mercy and acknowledging our mortality.

Having received the waters of baptism,
we come to be marked now with ashes.

May we humble ourselves before God, not with a yoke of burden,
but, with a mantle of freedom. In Jesus' name....Amen.

***The Gathering Prayer**

**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 that 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.**

***Hymn** Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (Insert)

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins
And close by you to stay.

2 As you with Satan did contend,
And did the victory win,
O give us strength in you to fight,
In you to conquer sin.

3 As you did hunger and did thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and so to live
By your most holy Word.

4 And thro' these days of penitence,
And thro' your passiontide,
Forever more, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.

5 Abide with us, that through this life
Of doubts and hope and pain,
An Easter of unending joy
We may at last attain!



The Call to Confession

The Prayer of Confession

Adapted from Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

O God of my salvation my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

The Declaration of Forgiveness

According to God's steadfast love, according to God's abundant mercy,
God does not pass judgment on us, not the judgment we deserve.

**God creates in us clean hearts and gives a new and right spirit.
In the grace of Jesus Christ, we return to God forgiven.
Praise God for our salvation.**

The Prayer of Illumination

A Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 6:1-6, and 16-21

'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.

The Choir's Anthem

Meditation

Risky Piety

Prayers of the People

O God, the Father, Creator of the universe,
have mercy upon us.

O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O God, the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of all who are faithful,
have mercy upon us.

For the glorious and blessed Trinity, ever one God,
we give thanks.



For blindness to your truth manifested all around us and our persistence in selfishness, envy, hatred, violence, racism, and anger...
forgive us, O Lord.

For failure to love and serve one another, given so many opportunities,
forgive us, O Lord.

For neglect of worship, prayer, and indifference to the power of your word,
forgive us, O Lord.

For this congregation of believers and this community...
may we be a united people in faith,
we pray you, O Lord.

That the Chapel in the Pines may strive, not for her own safety,
but for the transformation of the world,
we pray you, O Lord.

O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, ever one God unite us, have mercy upon us, and grant us your peace. **Amen.**

Call to the Offering

Offertory

***The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

***The Declaration of Forgiveness**

***Hymn** #410 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As Thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!



3 While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

4 When ends life's passing dream,
When death's cold, threatening stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Amen.

Meditation We Bear the Mark of Christ

Call to Ashes

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,
that in due time God may exalt you.

**Let us cast all our cares upon God,
for ashes and dust that we are, God still cares for us.**

In the presence of God I ask you to examine your heart and mind,
and ask yourself anew if you acknowledge your humanness
and repent of your sins with a contrite heart?

I do.

Do you believe that our heavenly Father is willing,
for the sake of Jesus, the Christ, to forgive all your sins?

I do.

Do you resolve to be renewed by the Holy Spirit
and to strive to live a holy life according to the teachings of Jesus?

I do.

The Imposition of Ashes

***Hymn** #201 Grace Greater Than Our Sin (Verse #1)

1 Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured -
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain:

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within,
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!



***Charge and Benediction**

***Hymn** #201 Grace Greater Than Our Sin (Verse #4)

4 Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
You that are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment his grace receive?

Refrain:

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within,
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!

***Postlude**

