



First Presbyterian
Church of DuPage



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession. Acknowledging that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory, we repent and return to our loving creator. Acutely aware of our failure and frailty, we express our utter reliance on God's saving grace.

Ash Wednesday developed in the medieval period as a time when penitent sinners were presented for church discipline during the season of Lent, to be reconciled with the community of faith on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday also came to be the occasion for new believers to enroll in the catechumenate, a period of preparation for baptism at Easter. For those who undertake spiritual disciplines, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten fast.

Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice. Traditionally, the ashes for this service are made from palm branches of the previous year; thus the ashes and palms together frame the season of Lent.



PRELUDE

GATHERING

OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: 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.

All: God's love endures forever.

OPENING HYMN - "Forty Days and Forty Nights" (#167 in Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal)

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.

Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!

So shall we have peace divine; holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully.

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 58:1-12

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

SERMON MEDITATION

Pastor David Boumgarden

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Holy and merciful God, we confess to your 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 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 anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, 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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

SENDING

HYMN – *“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”* (#166 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray;
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,

O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG – *“God be with You”* (#232)

POSTLUDE