

Ash Wednesday February 17, 2021

Prelude Ending With “*Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights*”

Words of Invitation to Enter into Ash Wednesday Contrition

Pastor: We are here on this Ash Wednesday to repent of our sins, intercede on behalf of a sinful world, and seek God’s face in the renewal of our lives and of this world. Today marks the beginning of Lent, a forty day journey of reflection, repentance, and anticipation as we prepare to celebrate Easter. As part of our service today, we will have an extended period of confession and an examination of our lives in the light of God’s grace. As a sign of your penitence, you are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes, as we trace the sign of the cross on your forehead with ashes, an ancient symbol of humility and grief.

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins be as scarlet I shall make them white as snow.” (Isaiah 1:18) In penitence and faith in the goodness of God who wants good things for us, let us confess our sins.

Song: *Lord, I Need You*

Scripture: Isaiah 5:1-7

Sermon: Bearing Fruit

Prayer

Song of Response: *I Want Jesus To Walk With Me*

LENTEN FORM FOR SELF-EXAMINATION (Music Playing)

Tonight as we gather here together we come to a time where we must take time to look ourselves in the mirror and examine what we see. Our choices, our words, our thoughts, and our deeds have not always been kind or thoughtful towards others. During this time we will name many different sins and allow ourselves to give them up to be carried to the cross.

People are invited to examine the following sins:

Pride—putting self in the place of god as the center and objective of our life. Pride is the refusal to recognize our status as creatures, dependent upon God.

Irreverence—deliberate neglect of God’s worship, or contentment with a perfunctory participation in it. Manifest as cynicism toward the holy or as use of Christianity for personal advantage

Sentimentality—satisfaction with pious feelings and beautiful ceremony without striving for personal holiness

Distrust—refusal to recognize God’s wisdom and love. Undue worry, anxiety, scrupulosity, or perfectionism. Attempts to gain or keep control of our life in various ways

Disobedience—rejection of God’s known will. The refusal to learn God’s nature through scripture. Breaking confidence by irresponsibility, treachery, and unnecessary disappointment of others. Breaking legal or moral contracts.

Impenitence—Refusal to search out and face up to our sins, or to confess them before God. Self-justification by believing our sins to be insignificant, natural, or inevitable; by refusing to apologize; by being unwilling to forgive ourselves.

Vanity—Failure to credit God and others for their part in our lives. Boasting, exaggeration, ostentatious behavior, undue concern over “things”

Arrogance—Being overbearing, argumentative, opinionated, obstinate

Resentment—Rejection of talents, abilities, or opportunities God and others give us.

Rebellion, hatred of God or human beings. Cynicism.

Envy—Dissatisfaction with our place in God’s order of creation. Manifests itself in jealousy, malice, and contempt for others or others’ things

Covetousness—the refusal to respect the integrity of other creatures, expressed in the accumulation of material things to prove self-worth, the use of others to personal advantage, or in the quest for status and power at the expense of others

Avarice—manifested in inordinate ambition or domination of others. The waste of natural resources or personal possessions. Extravagance or living beyond our means. Manifest in undue protection of our things. Stinginess, which can deprive others of life and thus kill them.

Gluttony—overindulgence of natural appetites for food and drink, and by inordinate quest for pleasure or comfort. Manifest in intemperance and lack of discipline

Lust—misuse of sex through seeing others as objects for our own pleasure without regard for their desires. Includes unchastity, immodesty, adultery, prudery.

Sloth—the refusal to respond to opportunities for growth, service, or sacrifice.

Laziness in spiritual, mental, or physical duties. Neglect of family. Indifference to injustice or the world’s suffering. Neglecting the outcast or person in need.

Litany of Penitence (Fayth Playing Behind)

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: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

we confess to you, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

we confess to you, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

we confess to you, O God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

we confess to you, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

we confess to you, 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,

accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

accept our repentance, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God,

and let your anger depart from us

Favorably hear us, O God,

for your mercy is great.

Imposition of The Cross

Songs: *Create in Me a Clean Heart/Change My Heart O God*

Blessing

Song: *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights*