

Ash Wednesday Service

Litany of Penitence

Leader: Most holy and merciful Father: 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.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Leader: We have been deaf 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.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Leader: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives, our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Leader: our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Leader: our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to feed the faith that is in us,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Leader: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Leader: For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Leader: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: Hear us, for your mercy is great.

Leader: Accomplish in us, the work of your salvation.

People: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Leader: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord.

People: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Leader: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. He pardons all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we ask God to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.