

ASH WEDNESDAY  
6:00 P.M..  
**Rev. Mark Piedmonte**  
**Music Director – Gregory Fraser**  
**\* Congregation will stand**

PRELUDE with SILENT PRAYERS: Liszt: *Consolation 1*

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – **Please follow COVID guidelines.**

**Self-imposition of Ashes – take a cup and a hand wipe! Please discard both on your way out of church**  
**Feel free to follow along with liturgy, or just be in a listening spirit.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

**All: We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging our mortality.**

Leader: Having received the waters of baptism, we are marked now with ashes.

**All: The treasures of this earth do not last; our treasure is in heaven, our heart's true home.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Leader: With humility, let us pray:

**All: O God of our salvation, we long to be reconciled to you. Help us to clear away any obstacle that prevents us from accepting the grace of Christ. No matter what we face in this life, increase in us knowledge and patience, kindness and holiness of spirit, genuine love and truthful speech, so that, by the power of God at work in us, we may live even as we are dying and rejoice even in our sorrows. Though it may seem that we have nothing, if we are reconciled to you, we possess everything through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days" (See Insert)**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: In quiet trust, in simple words, we enter a space for prayer. As we confess our sins, both secret and public, the door to God's heart is open, and we enter into grace and mercy. Let us pray:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us. We have many treasures on earth that we hold too dearly; that we withhold from others in need. When we sin against neighbor, condone injustice, and quarrel with one another, we sin against you. Forgive us, we pray, for we are broken in spirit. Do not see us for our faults, and do not go away from us. Keep us always in your presence so that we may be restored to the joy of your salvation. Sustain in us a willing spirit to treasure what you desire; then our hearts will be opened in joy and gladness. In Jesus Christ, our Treasure, we pray. Amen.**

**MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Old Testament: Isaiah 58:1-12

New Testament: Matthew 6:1-6

**Response to the reading of God's Word:**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord! **All: Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE: "Into the Mess"

Rev. Mark Piedmonte

**\*HYMN: "Love the Lord Your God" (See Insert)**

**SERVICE OF ASHES**

Leader: Let us pray:

**All: We bow our heads before you, O God, aware of our sinfulness and our shortcomings. Remembering our baptism, the watermark of the cross upon us, we also receive this ashen cross upon our foreheads – another sign that in life and in death, we belong to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we pray. Amen.**

Leader: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

**All: In life and in death, I belong to God.**

(Please dip your thumb into the ashes and make a sign of the cross on your forehead.  
You may do the same for those with whom you came to service.)

**MUSIC REFLECTION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: "Purify My Heart (Refiner's Fire)" (See Insert)**

**\*CHARGE**

Practice your piety not before others, but before God.

Give generously, but quietly;

pray constantly, but confidentially;

fast with gratitude to God;

and store up that which is in your heart; for it cannot be taken from you.

**\*BLESSING**

Leader: The blessing of God, who hears when you call;

the grace of Christ, who reconciles you;

the power of the Holy Spirit, who sustains you;

remain with you in these Lenten days and for all your days, and forevermore.

**All: Amen!**

**OPENING HYMN: LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT  
THESE FORTY DAYS**

1 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.  
2 As You with Satan did contend  
And did the vict'ry win,  
O give us strength to persevere,  
In You to conquer sin.  
3 And through these days of penitence,  
And through Your Passion-tide,  
Yes evermore, in life and death,  
O Lord, with us abide.  
4 Abide with us till when this life  
Of suffering shall be past,  
An Easter of unending joy  
We may attain at last!

**2<sup>ND</sup> HYMN: LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.  
Love the Lord your God with all your soul.  
Love the Lord your God with all your mind.  
Love the Lord your God with all that you are.

**CLOSING HYMN: PURIFY MY HEART (Refiner's Fire)**

Purify my heart – let me be as gold and precious silver.  
Purify my heart – let me be as gold, pure gold.  
**(Refrain):** Refiner's fire my heart's one desire  
Is to be holy, set apart for You Lord.  
I choose to be holy, set apart for You my master,  
Ready to do Your will.  
Purify my heart – cleanse me from within and make me holy.  
Purify my heart – cleanse me from my sin, deep within.  
**(Refrain)**

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THE  
FORTY  
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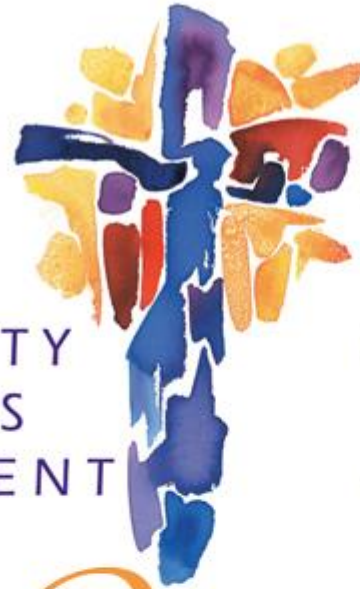


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to the  
LORD  
YOUR  
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compassionate,  
slow to anger and  
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