

Ash Wednesday, 2013—A Service of Prayer and Reflection

Gathering Gather yourself; look within; open your heart.

Call To Worship

A Still, Quiet Space Go to God, in Sorrow, in Prayer.

Scripture Reading Psalm 51:1-17

Reflection The Sacrifice of a Broken Heart

A Still, Quiet Space Go to God, in Sorrow, in Prayer.

Scripture Reading Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Reflection A Joyous Fast

A Still, Quiet Space Go to God, in Sorrow, in Prayer.

Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Reflection The Acceptable Time

Litany of Penitence

People: **Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and 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.**

Leader: 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, O God.**

Leader: 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.

People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

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

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

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

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

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

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

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

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Leader: 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,

People: **accept our repentance, O God.**

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

People: **accept our repentance, O God.**

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

People: **accept our repentance, O God.**

Leader: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

People: **Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

The Sign of Ashes With silent prayer

Going Forth into the World