



Ash
Wednesday
Service

February 14, 2024
Pastor Greg Anderson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "Were You There"

92

THE EXHORTATION:

P: Brothers and sisters; we were created to experience joy in communion with God, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under judgment, but to turn to God, and live. As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the discipline of Lent - helps us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION & SELF EXAMINATION

THE CONFESSION:

P. Most holy and merciful Father.

C: 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 left undone.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy on us.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy on us.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C: We confess to you Lord.

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

C: We confess to you Lord.

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

C: We confess to you Lord.

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

C: We confess to you Lord.

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

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering.

Pastor: How Blest are those who've been forgiven
Shout to God, O Faithful People
Who Know the Lord will always listen
Be glad and trust the Lord,
steadfast Love surrounds you.

People: **When I refused to Make Confession**

Pastor: Shout to God, O Faithful People

People: **My life was spent in deep depression**

Pastor: Be glad and trust the Lord,
steadfast Love surrounds you.

People: **I offered up my sins before you.**

Pastor: Shout to God, O Faithful People

People: **You said to me, "I will restore you."**

Pastor: Be glad and trust the Lord,
steadfast Love surrounds you.

(Imposition of Ashes)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, surrendering the brightness of your glory, you became mortal so that we might be raised

from the dust to share your very being. May the children of God always bless your name from the rising of the sun to its going down, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

AMEN

FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

² a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

- ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD, your God?
- ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
Sanctify the congregation;
¹⁶gather the people.
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.
- ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where

thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

SERMON by Pastor Greg

HYMN OF THE DAY "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

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OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER p. 87

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER #33 p. 90

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD p. 92

DISTRIBUTION (Juice in middle circle)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER p. 92

THANK THE LORD p. 92

BLESSING p. 94

CLOSING HYMN "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

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