

Ash Wednesday

February 6, 2008



*"For dust thou art,
and unto dust
shalt thou return."
Genesis 3:19*

Order of Service

Lenten Explanation

Responsive Reading

Hymn

"Sanctuary"

*Lord prepare me to be a Sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary, for You.*

Radio Challenge.....Rick Burgess

Prayerful Response

Community Prayer of Commitment

*Almighty and Everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent :
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Commitment Hymn

#275

"I Surrender All"

Responsive Reading:



*Make room within my heart, O God,
That You may form in me
The image You have shown in Christ,
My very life to be.*

Inspire my thought, O lofty One,
to reach the highest place,
That I may know the mind of Christ,
And His as greatest gain.

*Direct my will, O King of kings,
Subject it to Your own,
That ev'ry impulse, action, word,
May make Your kingdom known.*

Effect my prayer, great Trinity,
Eternal three in one;
Combine each part of me to praise
The Father, Spirit, Son.



Understanding Ash Wednesday & Lent

Tonight we celebrate Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Lent includes the forty days prior to Easter excluding Sundays. It is a time set aside for reflection, repentance, and confession as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Easter morning. Sundays are not included in Lent because they are celebration days.

Some things to notice during the Lenten season are the color purple covering the cross and the use of burlap which both represent the penitence of our hearts during this season. Flowers and other celebratory elements have been removed from the pulpit reminding us that we are in a season of repentance. The crown of thorns has also been placed back on the cross for it is during this forty days that we reflect on Christ the crucified rather than Christ the resurrected.

You can participate in Lent in several ways:

Fasting:

- Eliminating certain foods from your diet.
- Eliminating food completely one day a week
- Set aside extra time daily or weekly to be with God.
- Eliminate activities and spend that time in prayer
Ex. only listen to Christian music, or reducing TV time

Remember, fasting does not apply on Sunday during Lent.

Reflection:

- Find special ways to reflect on God's word.
- Study a special book from the Bible like *Ecclesiastes* or *Job*
- Read a book that reflects on Lenten themes such as prayer, confession, or sin.

However, you choose to participate in Lent this year, may God bless your time of reflection, may you grow in Him, and may Easter be a blessed celebration for you this year.