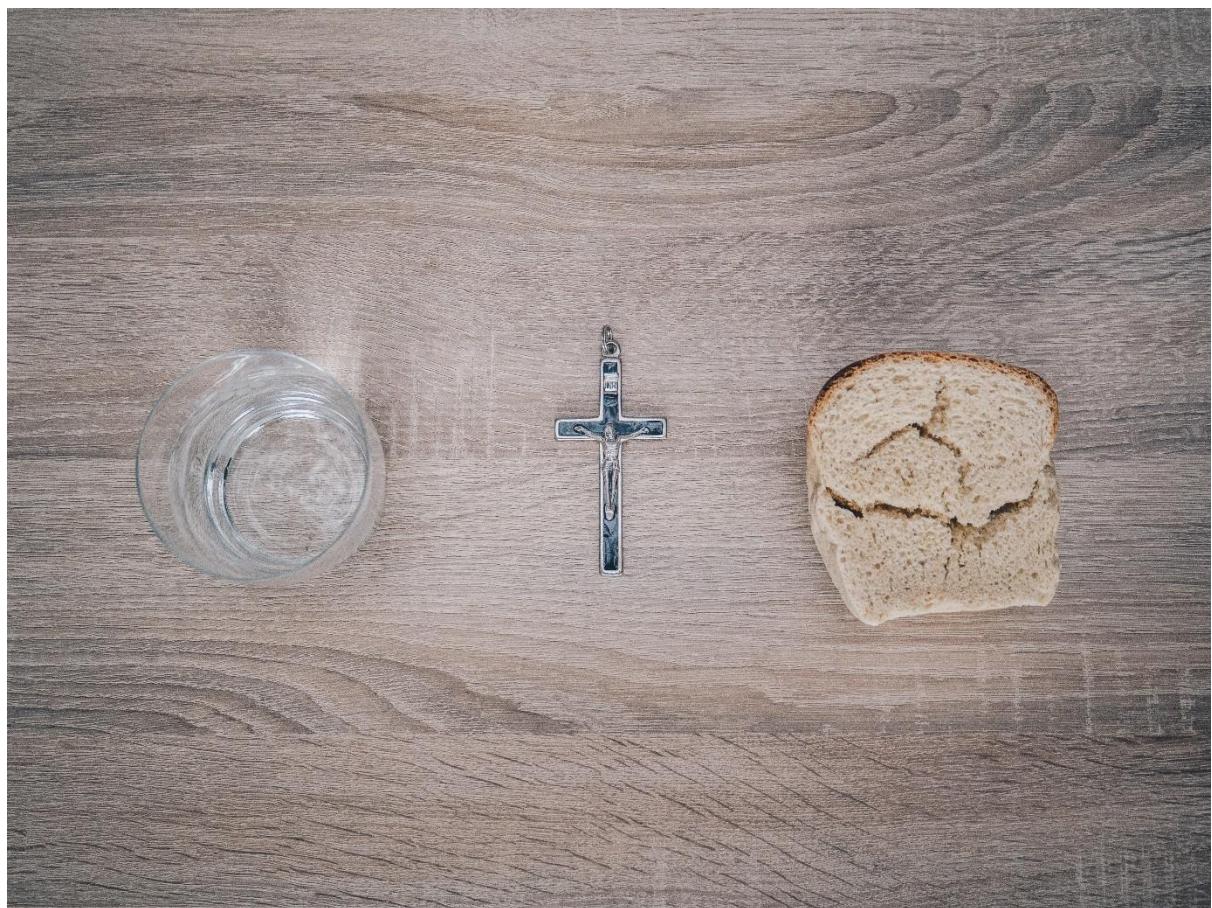


St. Mark's Emerald

Ash Wednesday Service

2021



OPENING

Blessed be the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Let us pray.

Silence

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made,
and you 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 brokenness,
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, now and for ever. **Amen.**

BIBLE READINGS

Psalm 51.1-17

Matthew 6.1-6

THE RECEIVING OF ASHES

Blessed are you, God of all creation.
You are eternal,
we are mortal,
formed from the dust of the earth.
As we receive these ashes, make them a sign for us
of repentance and returning to you.
Breathe into us again the breath of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Receive the sign of ashes. The words to be spoken over you are:

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.
Repent and believe the Gospel.

LITANY

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth,
have mercy on us.

Incarnate Word, redeemer of the world,
have mercy on us.

Abiding Spirit, giver of light and life,
have mercy on us.

For turning away from your presence,
for disobeying your word and commandments,
forgive us, Lord.

For trusting in our own strength instead of yours,
for betraying your trust and the trust of others,
forgive us, Lord.

For resisting your grace and refusing your blessings,
for holding back from proclaiming our faith in you,
forgive us, Lord.

For damaging this earth and exploiting its creatures,
for neglecting and wasting the gifts you have given us,
forgive us, Lord.

For failing to forgive as we have been forgiven.
for judging others and bearing grudges,
forgive us, Lord.

For skimping on our commitments and relationships,
for failing in hospitality,
forgive us, Lord.

For tolerating oppression, injustice, and wrong,
for keeping silent when we should have spoken up,
forgive us, Lord.

For turning away when others have offered us love,
for closing our hearts when others have needed compassion,
forgive us, Lord.

For all we have done unkindly, unjustly and dishonestly,
for our careless speech and hurtful words,
forgive us, Lord.

Most merciful God,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:

we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With our hearts turned to God in repentance,
with the knowledge of our sins
laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ,
in the name of the living God,
your sins are forgiven.

Receive God's mercy,
take hold of your forgiveness,
and, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
walk in the light of Christ. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours
always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.
We give you thanks and praise
for our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit
was born of Mary and lived as one of us.
He was tempted in every way as we are, yet he did not sin.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained
an eternal deliverance for his people.

By his grace we are able
to triumph over every evil,
and to walk in the way of his love.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you
and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word
and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers
of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed
Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying, 'Take, eat.
This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.'

This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do
as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour
and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ
We who are many are one body
for we all share in the one bread.

We share in communion together.

THE SENDING OUT

God of life and death,
from the fullness of yourself
you have created all that is;
through the power of your love
you call us towards you;
in the giving of your Son
our salvation has been wrought.
Our flowering and our passing,
all the seasons of the vine,
belong to you.
Bless us now and in all our days,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.