

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday

7:00 PM

*Please stand if you are comfortable standing.

PRELUDE *Prayer* George Walker

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Let us worship God. God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

All: God's love endures forever.

One: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: God's love endures forever.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN #434 *Restore in Us, O God* Baylor

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING **2 Corinthians 6:1-10**

SERMON *"A Confounding Fast"*

ANTHEM *Partita No. 2, Sarabande* J.S. Bach

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsively) *Psalms 51*

One: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

All: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

One: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

All: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

One: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

All: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

One: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

All: Let me hear joy and gladness that the body you have broken my rejoice.

One: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

One: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

All: Restore me to the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

One: Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

All: Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

One: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.

All: For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE (responsively)

One: Holy and merciful God, 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 done, and by what we have left undone. 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.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives...

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people...

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: For our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves...

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: 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...

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.

All: Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Opening Prayer (responsively)

Let us pray: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, for it is only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Come Forward for Ashes (responsively)

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

Amen.

Closing Refrain (responsively)

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

*HYMN #450

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

What Wondrous Love is This

John Carter

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