

LENTEN VESPERS
February 17, 2021 | Ash Wednesday

*** During this service, all are invited to impose the sign of the cross on their forehead or hand. If you do not have ashes, please use olive oil. In the Christian tradition, people are often anointed with oil as a sign of healing, wholeness, and community.*

PRELUDE

Soliloquy

David Ashley White

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Brian K. Ballard

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart,
O God you will not despise. Amen.

HYMN 167

Forty Days and Forty Nights

AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE ICH

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leigh DeVries

The prophet Joel cried out:
Return to the Lord with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.
For God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love.
Let us confess our sins and repent of all unrighteousness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
we confess that we have been a rebellious people.
We have broken your covenant,
and we have tolerated injustice in our land.
We have not shared our food with the hungry,
we have not sheltered those without homes,
and we have not aided the destitute.
We quarrel and fight among ourselves,
and we use religion to cover our deceit.
We have become a mockery of our heritage;
the world looks at us and asks, Where is their God?
Forgive us, O God.
Subdue our rebellious hearts
and restore in us the light of salvation;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy
the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom
be like the noonday.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
know that you are forgiven and rejoice.

THE PSALTER

Create in Me – Psalm 51

Nick Strimple

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Brian K. Ballard

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 4:7-15

MEDITATION

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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MUSICAL MEDITATION

Pastorale Variations

Thomas Pavlechko

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leigh DeVries

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Disciples of Jesus, observe a Holy Lent:
loose the bonds of injustice,
break the yoke of oppression,
feed the hungry, shelter the poor.
And may the grace of God, be present to you,
And extend more and more to all those you meet.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

Erbarme dich, meine Gott

J.S. Bach

WORSHIP SERVICE MUSICIANS

Gared Crawford, violin
Corinn Altomare, soprano
Edward Landin Senn, organ