

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

MARCH 5, 2025

GATHERING MUSIC

OPENING SENTENCES

From Psalm 51

Leader: Have mercy on me, God, according to your steadfast love;
People: **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**
Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
People: **The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**
All: **Let us worship God.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN 166 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 51: 1-17

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

MEDITATION

Rev. Beth Newman

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

LITANY OF PENANCE

Response: O God, have mercy on us.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN 729 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Leading in worship:
Rev. Beth Newman
Music Director: Kathy Wiggins

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday always falls on the Wednesday six and a half weeks before Easter, which is the day Jesus Christ was resurrected.

It is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the Lenten season.

It is a day of repentance when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God.

Ash Wednesday gets its name from early traditions in the Christian Church in Rome, when penitents and sinners would partake in a period of public penance. They were sprinkled with ashes and dressed in a sackcloth until they were reconciled with church-goers on Maundy Thursday.

