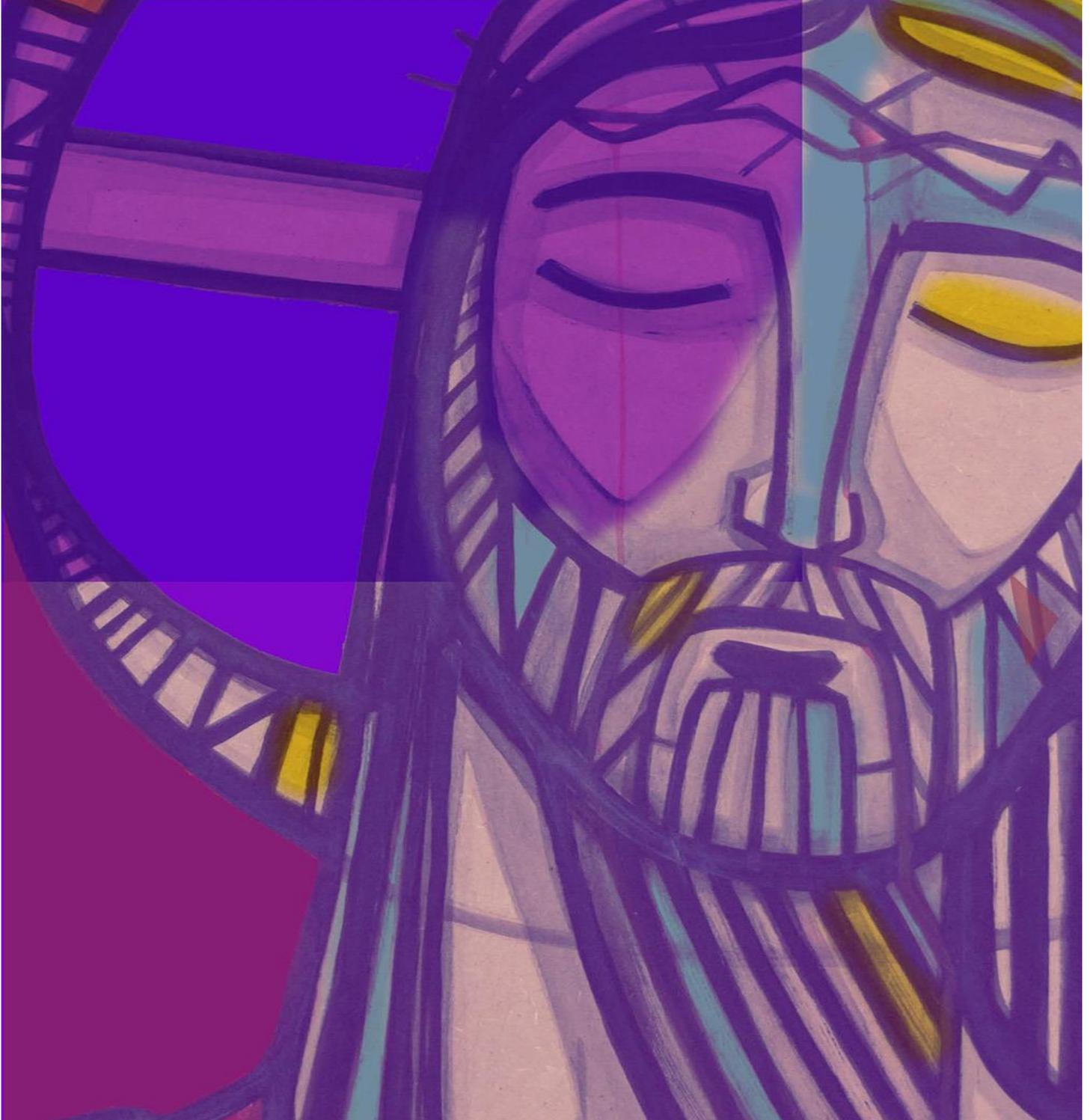


PROMISED TREASURES



**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2023**

SITTING IN DUST AND ASHES

AS WE GATHER

Lent begins with ashes. The wearing of ashes on our forehead may seem like an unusual tradition, but it is rich with meaning. From the earliest days, God's children have repented before Him in sackcloth and ashes, a visual reflection of their hearts turning to Him for forgiveness and restoration. Fixing our eyes on Jesus during the forty-day season of Lent, we journey with Him to Calvary's cross where, enduring the "ashes" of our sins and the penalty they deserve, He grants to us the beauty of His forgiveness, full and free. Let us be renewed in our hearts and minds this day as we gather in the Lord's house. His Word will show us our great need for His saving love and deliver to us the treasures He has promised.

+ PREPARATION +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

"At the Cross"

LPH 200

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Based on Philipians 2:1–11*

P Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:

C **Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**

P You endured the dust and the ashes, the nails, and the spear. By Your suffering and death, You bore in Your body the punishment our deeds deserve.

C **Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—**

P to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

C **With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who endured the “ashes” of Calvary’s cross so that we are given remission of all our sins, full and free. As a servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

As each person comes forward, the pastor makes the sign of the cross on his or her forehead or hand with ashes, saying:

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

+ WORD +

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You exchanged the ashes of our sin for the beauty of Your holiness when You died and rose again for us.

C **Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Job 30:11–19

¹¹Because God has loosed my cord and humbled me,
they have cast off restraint in my presence.

¹²On my right hand the rabble rise;

they push away my feet;
they cast up against me their ways of destruction.

¹³They break up my path;
they promote my calamity;
they need no one to help them.

¹⁴As through a wide breach they come;
amid the crash they roll on.

¹⁵Terrors are turned upon me;
my honor is pursued as by the wind,
and my prosperity has passed away like a cloud.

¹⁶And now my soul is poured out within me;
days of affliction have taken hold of me.

¹⁷The night racks my bones,
and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest.

¹⁸With great force my garment is disfigured;
it binds me about like the collar of my tunic.

¹⁹God has cast me into the mire,
and I have become like dust and ashes.

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51:1–4, 10–12

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

C according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

C For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

P Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,

C so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C and renew a right spirit within me.

P Cast me not away from Your presence,

C and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

P Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

C and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16–6:2

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For He says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Joel 2:13b

Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:20–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁰Then He began to denounce the cities where most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. ²¹“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago

in sackcloth and ashes. ²²But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was Your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. ²⁸Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

P) Living Together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

OFFERING

“The Old Rugged Cross”

LPH 44

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SPOKEN)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in

remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER

**C 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 and ever. Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, who in love and mercy sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that You have given us pardon and peace

in this Supper. Grant us the faith to always trust that because of Your Son's death and resurrection,

C You have taken the ashes of our sin and given us the beauty of Your forgiveness;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

GO IN PEACE