

Living Water Fellowship

Ash Wednesday

5 March 2025

Welcome to worship. God gathers us tonight so that in His presence & among His people we might acknowledge our failure to live according to His will. Trusting in God's generous mercy, we admit our guilt & the brokenness that results. We are marked with ashes, a sign of our human mortality that sin has brought upon us. We are marked by the sign of the cross, a reminder that Christ has carried sin & death for us, & in Him there is forgiveness & life eternal. Jesus Christ came not to condemn but to save a fallen creation. We are crucified and buried with him so that he may welcome us to life with the Father; full of abundant & eternal joy.

Welcome

Song O Breath of Life

God's Word for Ash Wednesday

Psalm 51:1-17

Confession of Sins

Creator God, our Father; you fashioned us out of dust, & breathed your Spirit into us, so we might sing your praise.

ALL: But we have rejected your rule over us. We chose to be our own gods, & our idols will fail us, abandon us & bring us to death.

MEN: We have denied our dependence on you. Sovereign Lord, we come before you now without pretence or excuse; you see all our actions and know all our inward thoughts. We are laid bare before you. We have sinned against you, and we plead for your forgiveness. Have mercy on us.

WOMEN: We have tried to find our own way instead of following the paths you lay out for us. We have arrogantly thought ourselves better than our neighbours. Have mercy on us.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, or strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, God.

We have not listened to your voice for direction in our lives. We confess our unfaithfulness, pride, hypocrisy, and impatience. We confess our self-indulgent appetites, selfish attitudes, and self-centred pursuits.

Have mercy on us, God.

We confess our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves and our need for power and success to determine our worthiness. We confess our love of worldly goods and temporary pleasures. We admit our dishonesty in daily life and work.

Have mercy on us, God.

We confess our failure to be diligent in prayer and faithful in our worship. We admit that we are hesitant to share with others the faith within us.

Have mercy on us, God.

We confess our apathy in the face of human need and suffering. We admit our indifference to injustice and intolerance. We confess our prejudice and contempt for those who are different from us. We admit our ungracious thoughts toward others and false judgments we are quick to make.

Have mercy on us, God.

Restore us; heal us; recreate us.

Hear us, for your mercy is great. Amen.

Song So You Would Come (PW 821)

The Imposition of Ashes — *Aelfric of Eynsham* (c. 955 - c. 1010)

If you have sinned, do not lose hope because of your error. Pray instead.

On the other hand, if you have done something good, never presume too much on account of your goodness. Never congratulate yourself excessively.

Never look down on someone else for sinning. Remember, when the wayward soul prays and repents of doing wrong, the Lord will raise that person up, as he did Lazarus.

Father of mercy, God of all love, look on us with kindness and direct our gaze to you. As we take on this sign of repentance, let repentance be also our way of life. We declare before you and all creation that without you we are nothing.

Ashes we were. Ashes we will be. But you are our God and Father forever.

May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and our repentance; a reminder that we receive eternal life by God's gift alone, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

*(Those who desire to receive ashes, both children & adults, may come forward. Ashes will be applied to each person's forehead, with the words:
"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return.")*

Worship during Imposition of Ashes - His Mercy is More (video)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

A Message for Ash Wednesday

WHOLE-HEARTED REPENTANCE

Prayers

The Lord's Supper

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during communion: Only Jesus for my Pain (video)

GO IN HIS POWER

Responsive Blessing (from Psalm 103)

Let all that I am praise the Lord;
with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.

Let all that I am praise the Lord;
may I never forget the good things he does for me.

He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.
He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies.

He fills my life with good things.
My youth is renewed like the eagle's!

The Lord gives righteousness and justice to all who are treated unfairly
**The Lord is compassionate and merciful,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.**

He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal with us, as we deserve.
As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for us.
He has removed our sin from us as far as the east is from the west.

As a father has compassion on his children, God has compassion on us.

Song Lord of All Hopefulness (AT 405)

SHOW HIS LOVE