

Service for Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

7:00 p.m.



Words of Welcome

Prelude

"Pre: Trio in G Minor"

Josef Rheinberger

Call to Worship

We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins,
aware of our weakness and our failings.

We come seeking God's mercy, acknowledging the shortness of our days.

Having received the waters of baptism, we are marked now with ashes.

***We trust in the love which holds us in life,
the love of God in Jesus Christ which is stronger than death.***

Prayer of the Day

***Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made
and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you.***

Create in us new and contrite hearts,

***that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.***

Hymn 675

"All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

- 1 All praise to thee, my God, this night, for all the blessings of the light!
Keep me, O keep me safe from harm within the shelter of thine arm!
- 2 Forgive me, Lord, through Christ, I pray, the wrong that I have done this day,
that I, before I sleep, may be at peace with neighbor, self, and thee.
- 3 O may my soul on thee repose, and with sweet sleep mine eyelids close.
Refresh my strength, for thine own sake, to serve thee well when I awake.
- 4 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter: Psalm 51 (Hymnal 421) *followed by silent reflection*

- 1 Have mercy, God, upon my life, and make me clean within:
pour out your ever-faithful love and wash away my sin.
- 2 My guilt is heavy on my mind; I know what I have done:
against your justice I have sinned, against you, God, alone.
- 3 Now teach me wisdom in my soul; I long to see your face.
Let bones, once broken, sing with joy, and heal me by your grace.
- 4 Create in me a faithful heart, a spirit right and new.
Sustain me with your saving love and keep me close to you.

5 Then I will praise you with my heart, my mind, my soul, my voice.
You save the least and seek the lost; let all the world rejoice!

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 2:12-13

Remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Sermon *followed by silent reflection*

Rev. Carter

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Imposition of Ashes

***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,
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.***

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

In life and in death, I belong to God.

Concluding Prayer

***Accomplish in us, O God,
the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world.
Through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Hymn 167

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

- 1 Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.
- 2 Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?
- 3 Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
- 4 So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully.
- 5 Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

Blessing and Charge

1 Thessalonians 5:23

May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being –
spirit, soul, and body - free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

arr. David N. Johnson