

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The Invitation

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

**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** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

700

✦ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

✦ **POSTLUDE**

WELCOME to all who enter this place. Drink deeply of the living waters of God's grace as we worship together in spirit.

VISITORS: You can pick up a Visitor's Information Packet at the Visitor's Table or the Welcome Centers. If you would like to receive more information about us, visit us at valleypres.net where you can sign up for our daily email blasts and monthly newsletter.

We are glad you have joined us today.



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2023

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Craig

GOD loved the world so much, GOD gave GOD's only begotten son. Jesus gave us a new Commandment: That we love one another as we have been loved by GOD. Happy Valentines! On this Ash Wednesday, we name our human frailties, our need for forgiveness and desire for love.

✦ **OPENING HYMN**

What Wonderful Love Is This

215

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Lent is a season of forty nights and days to prepare for the reconciliation renewing life. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and forgiveness as demonstrated in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our Lenten journey to Easter with the sign of the Cross in ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, while marking the desires of this community for reconciliation. I invite you therefore, in the name of Christ to a season of self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of compassionate love, by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

L: Let us pray in our own voices and for the sins of our world.

P: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you, to one another, to the whole communion of saints, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have chosen to leave undone making that impossible.

L: We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind and strength. We have exhausted our energy, intelligence, imagination and love. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

P: Have mercy on us,

L: We confess to you O God, the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives.

P: We confess to You, O GOD.

L: Our clinging to old wounds, our stiff-necked hard-heartedness over what is past and passed.

P: We confess to You, O GOD.

L: Our love of worldly goods, comforts and pleasures, and the dishonesties of daily life.

P: We confess to You, O GOD.

L: Our negligence to commend the faith that is in us to others.

P: We confess to You, O GOD.

L: Accept our repentance, O GOD, for the wrongs we have done. For the neglect of human need and suffering, for our indifference to cruelty. For all false judgements, uncharitable thoughts toward neighbors, prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us.

P: Accept our repentance, O GOD.

L: Restore us to a right Creation, O GOD, and let your anger depart from the world.

P: Favorably hear us, O GOD, for great is Your mercy.

UNISON RESPONSE

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Therefore, we will have no fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though rocks break from the wind and the mountains tremble in tumult. Amen

ANTHEM

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

C.F. Mueller

OFFERING OF ASHES

Almighty God, according to Genesis, you created us out of the dust of the earth, and to dust we return. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we granted everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

SCRIPTURE

2nd Corinthians 5:20 – 6:12

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says,

"In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us.