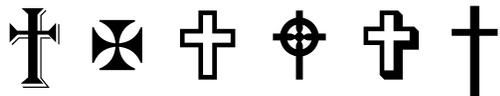


THE LENTEN JOURNEY

The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. This first day of Lent reminds us that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. In many traditions, this is symbolized through the imposition of ashes — placing a cross on one's forehead. During the imposition of ashes the words: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) are repeated again and again. We are to remember that we are but temporary creatures, always on the edge of death. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten trek through the desert toward Easter.

Ashes on the forehead is a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not to show off one's faith. The ashes are a reminder to us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die.

Trusting in the "accomplished fact" of Christ's resurrection, however, we listen for the Word of God in the time-honored stories of the church's Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed "on the way" to Jerusalem and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of *metanoia* ("turning around"), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross.



www.locustpresbyterian.org

LOCUST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 6, 2019



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition.

Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience, we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever.

Locust Presbyterian Church

7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship

*Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return,
but the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.*

Welcome and words about Ash Wednesday Ardy

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Let us Worship God.

God sent Christ into the world, not to condemn the world, but that
the world might be saved through him.

ALL: God's love endures forever.

One: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear

though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

though the waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with tumult

ALL: God's love endures forever.

Hymn: O Soul, Are You Weary and Troubled

#252 Hymns for the Living Church, vs. 1

O soul, are you weary and troubled?

No light in the darkness you see?

There's light for a look at the Savior,

And life more abundant and free!

Refrain

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His
glory and grace.

Litany of Penitence

Congregation response – Have mercy on us, O God.

Anthem: At Your Feet

Choir

Written by Mark Hall, Jason Ingram; Arranged by Cliff Duren

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Hymn: What Wondrous Love Is This
#85 Presbyterian Hymnal

Second Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Message Where your heart lies

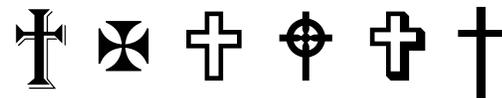
Ardy Skidmore

Invitation To Lent

Imposition of Ashes

Prayer

Exit in silence



Imposition of Ashes

*(About Ashes... as humble people, we can recognize our "mortality"- that
the body will die someday. As responsive people, we show our repentance with a
sign of Gospel acceptance. Ash Wednesday is one day each year when we can be
bold to consider our sin, seek forgiveness, and find new ways of spiritual growth
and living. The sign of ashes is "sacramental," as an outward reminder of our
humility, and our dependence upon Christ's mercy and grace.)*

