



ST. DAVID'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY
Imposition of Ashes
February 17, 2021
4:00 p.m.

The Lord be with you.

✠ **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

BCP, P. 264

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ✠ **Amen.**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Lyn Zill Briggs

Jesus said, “Make sure you don’t show off how good you are so people will think you’re really holy. God does NOT like that at all. If you give money to help the poor, that’s a really good thing. But don’t make a big deal out of it so everyone knows. In fact, give that money with your right hand so quietly that your left hand doesn’t even know about it! God knows when you give and that’s what counts.

“When you’re praying, you don’t need to do it loudly or even in public so that everyone knows. You can always pray to God inside your heart, wherever you are, without letting everyone else hear just so they’re impressed.

“If you’re going to go without food so you can get closer to God, don’t tell everyone and whine about how hungry you are so they know you’re fasting. Put a smile on your face instead and look your best. God knows what you’re doing and it’s God who counts.”

The Word of the Lord.

✠ **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

BCP, P. 264

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a period of time.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Gambger/Seamans

Almighty God,
you created us out of the dust of the earth,
and breathed life into us:
may the ashes of Ash Wednesday
be a sign that we are human
and will someday return to the dust;
And may we always remember
That even though we will die,
You have promised us the gift of everlasting life. ✠ **Amen.**

The ashes are imposed with the following words

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

Silence is then kept for a period of time.

MUSIC

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we beseech you to grant us true repentance and your Holy Spirit, that those things may please you which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ✠ **Amen.**

People leave in silence.