

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Amen.

*For John came
to you in the way of
righteousness...*

Matthew 21:32, NRSV



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Prelude: Dust and Ashes by Brian Wren

Lighting the Candles

Opening Hymn: Trust and Obey No. 467

Divine Reading: Matthew 21: 28-31a

Divine Reading Journal

Listen: List the Word(s) that capture your attention

Ask: Describe your heart-feeling and mind-thinking evoked by God's Word(s)

Receive: Ask, "What must I change about my heart-feelings and or mind-thinking to receive God's word?"

Since I trust God's Word(s), I will **Confess**

Since I trust God's Word(s), I will **Repent**

Since I trust God's Word(s), I will **Forgive**

Amen: Father, I thank you for welcoming me into Your Holy Presence. Lead me now by the power of Your Holy Spirit to let _____ be revealed through by heart-feelings, mind-thinking, and soul-actions.

Worship: Father, now that I have experienced the above, transform my life. I give you thanks for _____.

Caution: Be patient with yourself and God. God is with you to take a journey of life. The above is never intended to be a task or goal. For such is the way of the world. Jesus came to teach us how to reflect God's image. We worship the Father each moment we reflect God's image. Worship teaches us the way of Life-Eternal!

The Parable of the Two Sons: Matthew 21: 28-32

Homily: Which Son Denied Self?

Jesus says, "If you want to come after me, you must Deny Self."

Blessed are the poor in spirit. What must you deny to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? Colossians 3: 5 gives us clues: "Earthly things like fornication, impurity, passion, evil, desire, and greed."

Blessed are those who mourn. To mourn also means to suffer loss. When we deny our earthly ways we lose power, control, selfishness, and such things. Colossians 3:8 gives us guidance about such mourning. Which of the following do you need to deny yourself? Anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth, do not lie to another....

Jesus says, "Take up your cross."

Blessed are the meek. Colossians 3: 12. ""Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive.

Blessed are the merciful. Colossians 3: 12. "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Jesus says, "Come follow Me."

Blessed are the pure in heart. Colossians 3: 14. "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the One Body."

Service of Anointing: You are invited to come to be anointed with Holy Oil. (Please come with your arms outstretched, presenting your wrists for anointing.)

Music: Signed by Ashes by Kevin Keil and Maryanne Quinlivan

Prayer: The Prayer of Saint Francis No. 481

Closing Hymn: Spirit of the Living God No. 393

Postlude: Ashes to Ashes by Dan Schutte