

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
FEBRUARY 22, 2023

GATHERING

(Please take a moment to sign the attendance pad and pass it on to your neighbor)

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ* J.S. Bach

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

***OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE UMH #395** *Take Time to Be Holy*

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ: the early Christians observed, with great devotion, the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration, there was a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a Holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We come to worship, to remember, and to claim our calling. We come to worship, to renew our affirmation to be dedicated people of God, always willing to listen and to pay attention to those whose needs are great. In our moments of honest reflection, we realize how often we fall short of our goal. In that knowledge, let us confess our shortcomings to God.

CONFESSION

All: In the stillness of this time and place, let us think not on what we have done, but on what we have failed to do. O God, we are sorry for the occasions when: we saw a life falling apart and failed to pray; we witnessed an emotional meltdown and failed to bring calm reassurance; we acted irresponsibly and others paid for our arrogance. Forgive us, loving God, for our failures in the past, and awaken us to heed the challenges of the future.

ANTHEM *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* Mueller
LUMC Chancel Choir

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

My friends, hear the good news: God claims you as God's own. You are loved forever, no matter what you have done. You are granted newness of life; rejoice in the assurance that, in the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

***A LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT** *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21* page 5

HOMILY "Rising From the Ashes" Rev. Mack McDowell

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES: FWS #2138 *Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes*

PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN UMH #269** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

POSTLUDE: *Land of Rest* American Folk tune

*Please stand as you are able

