



# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 17, 2021

## PRELUDE

*Return to God*

Marty Haugen

Molly Frederick, Susan Pearce, Wayne Tillman, Ken Curry, quartet  
Lynn Auman, violin

*Refrain: Return to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and mercy;  
come seek the tender faithfulness of God.*

Now the time of grace has come, the day of salvation;  
come and learn now the way of our God. *Refrain*

I will take your heart of stone and place a heart within you,  
a heart of compassion and love. *Refrain*

If you break the chains of oppression, if you set the prisoner free;  
if you share your bread with the hungry, give protection to the lost;  
give a shelter to the homeless, clothe the naked in your midst,  
then your light shall break forth like the dawn. *Refrain*

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## OPENING SENTENCES

*(All speak words in **boldface**.)*

As the time drew near, Jesus made up his mind to go to Jerusalem.

**What will it take to walk that road together?**

Let us pick up our crosses and follow Christ,

**forward-focused, on a path lined with wisdom and love.**

*(based on Luke 9:51-62)*

## MEDITATION

Luke 9:51-62

Rev. Laura Viau

## INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

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Our journey begins.

**We return to the Lord, our God,**

**who is gracious and merciful,**

**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

**giving us what we need to confess our sin.**

## ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(This prayer is printed that it might become a tool for self-examination)*

O God, we confess the damage we may do our bodies  
by those things we eat or do not eat,  
drink or do not drink,  
by over-sleeping or sleep-deprivation,  
by failure to exercise  
or failure to seek medical attention,  
by life-destroying emotions and angers.

**Forgive us, O God, and make us whole.**

O God, we confess that we love ourselves too much or too little,  
ignore our families or smother them,  
fail to love our neighbors  
or fail to recognize that everyone is a neighbor,  
and choose time with our stuff over special time with you.

**Forgive us, O God, and teach us love.**

O God, we confess our sins of hesitation –  
when kindness should be done,  
generosity or common decency shown,  
or risky justice pursued.

**Forgive us, O God, and wake us up.**

God, we confess our spoken sins –  
gossip or lies,  
betrayal of trust or exaggeration,  
hurtful criticism, prejudiced jokes,  
cheap agreements without commitment.

**Forgive us, O God, and keep us quiet.**

God, we confess the harm we do when we don't think we will be caught.

**Forgive us, O God, and brighten the mirror of our conscience.**

O God, we confess our joylessness –  
not noticing the beauty of the earth or the sweet passing of time,  
staying aloof from people and animals  
letting distractions keep us from the joy of giving.

**Forgive, O God, every time we do not open our spirits,  
our minds, our emotional hearts, or our bodies  
to the blessings of new life you are waiting to give us. Amen.**

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SUNG PRAYER  
(Sung three times)

*Jesus, Remember Me*

REMEMBER ME

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

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WORDS OF SENDING

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

arr. by Neil Harmon



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**PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL. ☺**

