

ASH WEDNESDAY COMMUNION LITURGY

As disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from our love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, study and deeds of love help us to understand and share the love of God.

May the Ashes we receive remind us not only of our sin, but also of the Love of God in Christ.

May the elements of this communion remind us of the depth of God's love – For God so loved the world that God sent His only Son that we might have life in all its fullness.

Therefore, here and now, as we receive, let us go forth and share God's love, God's grace and God's forgiveness. **AMEN.**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION *(those who are able please stand)*

Luke the evangelist wrote of our Risen Lord, that when he was at table with two of his disciples, he took bread and blessed and broke it, and their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.

In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know Him in the breaking of the bread.

For the Lord Jesus, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them saying, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he also took the cup, after supper saying, "This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink of it in remembrance of me."

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good that we do.

We give thanks, Lord God, our creator, for bringing the world into being, for creating us in your image, for recalling us when we rebel against you and for keeping us in your steadfast love. We praise you especially for Jesus Christ; who was born of Mary and lived as one of

us; who knew exactly the life we know, yet was obedient to your purposes, even unto his death upon the cross. We thank you that you stamped his death with victory by raising him in power and by making him head over all things. We rejoice in the continuing presence of your Holy Spirit, in the church you have gathered, in its tasks of obedience, and in the promise of eternal life. We the faithful in every time and place, we praise with joy your Holy Name: *(Sanctus – Red Hymnal page 364)*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabbaoth; Heaven and earth are Full, are full of the majesty of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of The Lord, Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest!

Therefore, consecrate these ashes that they may be a reminder of our repentance and the forgiveness you offer in Christ Jesus our Savior. Bless also by your word and Spirit, both us and these gifts of bread and cup, that in receiving them at this table, and in offering here our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and remain faithful to the tasks he sets before us.

In the strength Christ gives we offer ourselves to you, giving thanks that you have called us to serve you. AMEN.

Introduction of the Elements

(Congregations may be seated and come forward as directed by our ushers)

Let us give thanks:

We give thanks, Lord God, that you have received us at this table by granting us the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. AMEN.

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