

5307 Owl Creek Road | PO Box 17169 | Snowmass Village, CO 81615 | 970.923.6192
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Worship Service Sundays at 9am



Snowmass Chapel

Ash Wednesday Service

Hymn

#314 What Wondrous Love

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

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 brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Old Testament - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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

Homily

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

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

Communion

Hymn

WS #55, Create in Me a Clean Heart

Blessing

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

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 God, 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 now let us keep silence before the Lord.

Silence

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The ashes are imposed with the following words:
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Let us together turn to the words of Psalm 51.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
because of your unfailing love.
Because of your great compassion,
blot out the stain of my sins.
- ² Wash me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.
- ³ For I recognize my rebellion;
it haunts me day and night.
- ⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.
You will be proved right in what you say,
and your judgment against me is just.
- ⁵ For I was born a sinner -
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ But you desire honesty from the womb,
teaching me wisdom even there.
- ⁷ Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Oh, give me back my joy again;
you have broken me - now let me rejoice.
- ⁹ Don't keep looking at my sins.
Remove the stain of my guilt.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not banish me from your presence,
and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and make me willing to obey you.
- ¹³ Then I will teach your ways to rebels,
and they will return to you.
- ¹⁴ Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves;
then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.
- ¹⁵ Unseal my lips, O Lord,

that my mouth may praise you.

- ¹⁶ You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one.
You do not want a burnt offering.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit.
You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.
- ¹⁸ Look with favor on Zion and help her;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- ¹⁹ Then you will be pleased with sacrifices offered in the
right spirit - with burnt offerings and whole burnt
offerings.
Then bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar.

Litany of Penitence

Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives.

We confess to you, Lord.