

Image: Ash Wednesday Cross © Jan Richardson

Contemplative Liturgy

ASH WEDNESDAY February 17, 6pm.

Welcome sung 4 times

Candle 3X Bell

Opening CHANT By the waters of Babylon

Invitation to a Holy Lent: Desert Prayer.

—Jan Richardson In Wisdom's Path: Discovering the Sacred in very Season

I am not asking you to take this wilderness from me, to remove this place of starkness where I come to know the wildness within me, where I learn to call the names of the ravenous beasts that pace inside me, to finger the brambles that snake through my veins, to taste the thirst that tugs at my tongue. But send me tough angels, sweet wine, strong bread: just enough.

1st Reading

Is. 58:6, 10-12

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

- if you offer your food to the hungry
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
 then your light shall rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be like the noonday.
- The LORD will guide you continually,
 and satisfy your needs in parched places,
 and make your bones strong;
 and you shall be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water,
 whose waters never fail.
- Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
 you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
 you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
 the restorer of streets to live in.

Silence

2nd Reading

Matt. 6:5 "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

CHANT Agios O Theos

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Blessing the Dust For Ash Wednesday—Jan Richardson from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

All those days you felt like dust, like dirt, as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind and be scattered to the four corners

or swept away by the smallest breath as insubstantial—

did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?

This is the day we freely say we are scorched.

This is the hour we are marked by what has made it through the burning.

This is the moment we ask for the blessing that lives within the ancient ashes, that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for sorrow. And let us be marked not for shame. Let us be marked not for false humility or for thinking we are less than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

People impose their own ashes saying aloud:

Remember we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

Silence 10 minutes.

Confession of Sin. UNMUTED.

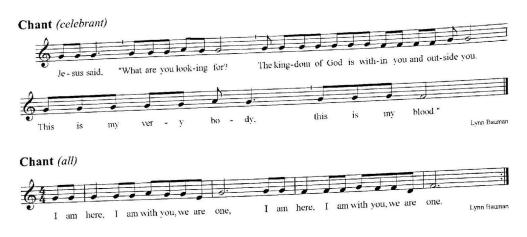
God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied Your good in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We are challenged by all the strife that surrounds us. We repent of the ungodly that controls us, the wrongful acts that we have done, and the foolish things done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

CHANT O Christe Domine Jesu TAIZE intro

EUCHARIST

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION



The blessing over the bread (celebrant)

On the night before you died, beloved friend and master, You took bread, and when you had given thanks, you broke it, and gave it to your friends saying, "Take; eat; this is my body which is given for you. Whenever you do this, remember me."

The blessing over the cup (celebrant)

After supper, you took the cup of wine, and when you had given thanks, you gave it to us saying, "Drink this, all of you, for this is the blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all, so that all may be one. Whenever you do this, remember me."

NOTE: The epiclesis (invocation of the spirit) and fraction (breaking of the bread) are performed in silence, exactly recapitulating the silent action at the dinner table.

Lord's Prayer from The New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

4X Closing CHANT

X3 Bell Candle