

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
West Seneca, New York  
ASH WEDNESDAY  
February 25, 2009 7:00pm

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We look as though we are strong

**People: But our spirits are burdened.**

*(pause for silent reflection)*

Leader: Now is the time of our salvation.

**People: We turn our hearts to God.**

Leader: Now is the day of God's judgment.

**People: We return our lives to God's mercy.**

Leader: Now is the hour of God's coming.

**People: We turn to the God of grace, that we might be made clean again.**

**PRAYER**

**\*HYMN** 81 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 58:1-12

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

**MEDITATION**

**INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT**

**Psalm 51** *(read responsively)*

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness, in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**People: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

Leader: For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me.

**People: Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.**

Leader: And so you are justified when you speak, and upright in your judgment.

**People: Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.**

\*All who are able may stand

Leader: For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**People: Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me and I shall be clean indeed.**

Leader: Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**People: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.**

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**People: Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Leader: Give me the joy of your saving help again, and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**People: I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.**

Leader: Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

**People: Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader: Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

**People: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**Litany of Penitence***(read responsively)*

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: 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.**

Leader: 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.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: We have not listened 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.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**People: we confess to you, O God.**

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

**People: we confess to you, O God.**

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

**People: we confess to you, O God.**

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

**People: we confess to you, O God.**

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

**People: we confess to you, O God.**

Leader: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**People: accept our repentance, O God.**

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

**People: accept our repentance, O God.**

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

**People: accept our repentance, O God.**

Leader: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**People: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

**\*HYMN**      277    *O God, Our Faithful God*

## **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

### **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER (all together)

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*HYMN        80        *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

\*BLESSING

\*CHARGE

POSTLUDE                                *Chimed*

### **Please note the West Seneca Community of Churches Lenten Journey**

begins on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Services are held at 7:30pm every Wednesday during Lent. The journey concludes on Good Friday with an Ecumenical service at St. David's Episcopal Church from 12-3pm. The following is a list of host churches for each week of the journey:

3/4	John XXIII Church
3/11	St. John 's Lutheran Church
3/18	Queen of Heaven RC Church
3/25	First Presbyterian Church
4/1	Ebenezer United Church of Christ