LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING:		Joel 2:12-18	Sit	
RESPONSORIAL PSALM:		Psalm 50: 3-6, 12-14, 17		
Response:		Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.		
SECOND READING:		2 Corinthians 5:20- 6:2		
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:			Stand	
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory! If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!				
GOSPEL:		Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18		
SHARED REFLECTION			Sit	
BLESSING AND GIVING OF ASHES				
Leader: Dear friends in Christ, let us implore God our Father to bless and sanctify these ashes, which we place on our heads as a sign of repentance.			ashes,	
	Lord, you do not wish sinners to die but to turn to you and live In your goodness hear our prayer: Pour out your blessing on these ashes,			

which we place on our heads to remind us

that we are dust and unto dust we shall return.

Grant that by our faithful observance of Lent we may gain pardon for our sins and newness of life in the image of your risen Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The ashes are now sprinkled with holy water in silence and the Leaders sign each other with the ashes.

Leader: I now invite you to receive these ashes as a sign of your desire for forgiveness and conversion.

The ashes are now received by all.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

RITE OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: On this day we acknowledge our need for repentance and our desire to live this Lent well. We also realise that God is always with us in our daily lives and for this we should always give thanks. Let us kneel and offer our praise and thanks to God.

Praise to you, Father of mercies, for in Christ's death and resurrection you have set us free from sin and offered us the promise of eternal life. Your people give you glory:

All: We praise your name, O God.

Leader: Praise to you, Father of compassion, you lift those who are bowed down and give strength to those who suffer. You sustain us on this Lenten pilgrimage. Your people give you glory:

All: We praise your name, O God.

Leader: Praise to you, Father of love, you sent your Son into the world to be our Saviour and brother. In him we are reconciled into your loving embrace. Your people give you glory:

All: We praise your name, O God.

Leader: Praise to you, Father of all, in Christ we hear the Word of truth, the Gospel of salvation. Christ's example of faithful service is the pattern for Christian life. Your people give you glory:

All: We praise your name, O God.

- Leader: We glorify you, O God, for the marvels of your mercy. To you be glory and honour, through Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Jesus invites us to call on his Father's name: Filled with trust in Jesus' power, we stand as we conclude our prayer of thanksgiving in his own words: Stand

All: Our Father..... For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

CONCLUDING RITE

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

BLESSING

Leader: May God, who is blessed above all, bless us in all things through Christ, so that whatever happens in our lives will work together for our good, now and forever.

All: Amen.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth in peace, to spend this time of Lent worthily that we might love and serve the Lord always.

All: Thanks be to God.

FINAL HYMN

Acknowledgements:

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ASH WEDNESDAY - YEAR A, 2023

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GATHERING

Stand

Stand

Leader: Let us commence our prayer on this solemn day with the words of Scripture.

All: You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God. *Wisdom 11:24-25,27*

GREETING

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

- Leader: Blessed be God, who bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- All: Blessed be God forever.

WELCOME

PENITENTIAL RITE

OPENING PRAYER