

Waupun United Methodist Church



ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2, 2022

**Welcome to worship.
May you find the presence of God in this place.**

promise as we say the words that reveal our failing and declare our faith. Let us pray.

Left Side: When we fail to bring your love into consideration or when we slip into apathy or despair about the world.

Right Side: When we fail to take strength and courage from the example of your Son.

Left side: When by our inaction, we allow injustice, greed, selfishness, and even cruelty to go unchecked.

Right Side: When by our inaction, we allow your truth to go unspoken and undefended, ignored and mocked.

All: Though we are unworthy, LORD, forgive us.

Left Side: When with our apathy and despair, we fall into dangerous, abusive, and destructive habits,

Right Side: or allow our hopelessness to turn into cynicism or the deadly desire for power, wealth, or other forms of earthly corruptible security.

All: Though we are unworthy, LORD, forgive us.

Left Side: When in our weakness and fear, we allow ourselves to be dragged down into a place where we see no way to live that does not involve sinful behavior,

Right Side: and perhaps find our strength and our courage in sin instead of in your goodness.

All: Though we are unworthy, LORD, forgive us.

Left Side: When we find profane power and treacherous security in acts of injustice, greed, selfishness, and cruelty.

Right Side: And allow others to pay the cost for that power and security

All: Though we are unworthy, LORD, forgive us.

Left Side: When we neglect the truth your Son died to show us, when we abuse those who try to spread that truth with words and actions with our fearful doubt and our lack of support.

Right Side: When we show the world how little your love really means to us.

All: Though we are unworthy, LORD, forgive us.

Leader: We stand before you, dear LORD, knowing you have already forgiven us. Help us to listen as you speak your word of acceptance, your word of mercy, and your word of redemption.

All: In the name of your Son we pray. Amen.

Celebration of Communion

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: We give you thanks, LORD, that You have welcomed us, unworthy as we are, into Your presence.

Fill us with a gratitude born of the knowledge of Your Son's sacrifice and send us forth to come to understand the freedom and joy this sacrifice can mean.

Amen.

***The Closing Prayer**

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,
that we may show forth Your glory in the world.

By the cross and the 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, does not desire the death of sinners; rather that we may turn from our wickedness and live. Therefore we implore Him to grant us true repentance and His Holy Spirit that those things we do this day, may please Him, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to His eternal joy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Red #297

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

The Congregation will leave in silence.

Ashes

We rise again from ashes,
from the good we've failed to do.
We rise again from ashes,
to create ourselves anew.
If all our world is ashes,
then must our lives be true,
An offering of ashes, an offering to You.

We offer You our failures,
we offer You attempts;
The gifts not fully given,
the dreams not fully dreamt.
Give our stumblings direction,
give our visions wider view,
An offering of ashes, an offering to You.

Then rise again from ashes,
let healing come to pain;
Though spring has turned to winter,
and sunshine turned to rain.
The rain we'll use for growing,
and create the world anew,
From an offering of ashes, an offering to You.

Thanks be to the Father,
who made us like Himself.
Thanks be to His Son,
who saved us by His death.
Thanks be to the Spirit,
who creates the world anew,
From an offering of ashes, an offering to You.

Joel 2:12-19

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;

assemble the aged;

gather the children,

even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,

and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar

let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,

and do not make your heritage a mockery,

a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land,

and had pity on his people.

¹⁹ In response to his people the LORD said:

I am sending you grain, wine, and oil,

and you will be satisfied;

and I will no more make you a mockery among the nations.