

Nurture Good News

"For all of you share in God's grace." (Philippians 1:7)



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN
THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025



One does not live by bread alone.

~ Deuteronomy 8:3



“YOU ARE DUST AND TO THE DUST YOU WILL RETURN.”

*Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice.
Ashes for this service were made from the palm branches of the previous year.*

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER (*John 6:11,14*)

Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also, the fish, as much as they wanted.
“This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather for worship,
all who wander in the wilderness looking for bread.

**We have wandered through the wilderness,
but we cannot live by bread alone.**

Gather for worship to be satisfied by the bread of life,
which nourishes and makes us whole.

**Through the Spirit, the words, and the life of Christ,
we are fed by the bread of life.**

Come, let us worship and remember:

We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

Yet even in dust, we are beloved.

**We worship the One who leads us, feeds us,
and calls us to repentance.**

Let us worship God.

HYMN

YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART

by Omer Westendorf

GTG #523

BICENTENNIAL

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 58:1-12

Pew Bible p.647(OT)

And all ate and were filled.
For we all share in God's grace.

SECOND READING

JOHN 6:1-15

Pew Bible p.91(NT)

And all ate and were filled.
For we all share in God's grace.

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

RESPONSE

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

GTG #422

PSALM 51

CREATE IN ME (Capers)

PSALM 51 (RESPONSIVE READING)

From PSALMS OF WONDER by Carey Wallace

Have mercy on me, Lord,
because your love never fails.

**Wash away my crimes
and wipe away my mistakes.**

I know what I've done.
I know it was wrong.

**And you know what is right:
you are the only true judge.**

You always want truth even when it's hidden.
So wash me till I'm bright.

**Give me your wisdom.
Create a pure heart in me.**

Make my spirit strong and true.
Don't throw me away.

**Give me joy!
Come to my rescue!**

Then I will teach your ways to others who do wrong,
and when they hear, they will come back to God.

PSALM 51 (CONTINUED)

**Open up my lips
and I will give you praise.**

You don't want the sacrifices
we bring to your table.

**But if our hearts are broken, and our spirits too,
you will not look down on us.**

We can always bring them to you.

**All: Have mercy on us, Lord,
because your love never fails.**

LITANY OF PENITENCE

After each confession, the congregation may respond:
Holy and almighty God, **have mercy on us.**

INSTRUMENTAL

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who so desire may come forward to receive an imposition of ashes as a sign of penitence not only for our individual sin, but also in recognition of our complicity in the sin of the world.

HYMN

SIGN US WITH ASHES

GTG #433

Words by Mary Louise Bringle; Music by William P. Rowan

BLESSING AND CHARGE

All are invited to quietly exit.

