



**+ Ash Wednesday**  
**Worship Service for Children**  
**February 17, 2021**

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**  
**304 Morewood Ave.**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

**[St\\_andrewELCA@verizon.net](mailto:St_andrewELCA@verizon.net)**  
**[www.standrewpittsburgh.org](http://www.standrewpittsburgh.org)**

**+ Ash Wednesday**  
**Worship Service for Children**  
**Order for Worship**

*On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter. We confess our sins and ask for help in turning back toward God and God's will for our lives. We mark our foreheads with dust, knowing that one day our bodies will return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at Baptism. While we keep Lent to return to God, we know that we have already been forgiven through Jesus.*

**Welcome**

**Greeting**

**P:** The grace of Jesus, the love of God, and the Holy Spirit who brings us together, be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray.

Powerful and loving God,

you love everything and everyone you have made,

and you forgive everyone who is sorry for their sins.

Help us to have clean and honest hearts, so when we turn from our sins,

we receive your forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus,

who lives in heaven with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**Invitation to Lent**

*The presiding minister invites the congregation into the discipline of Lent.*

**P:** Friends, today with the whole church we start a new season

by saying that we need God, and we need to turn ourselves toward God.

We are made to be happy with God's gifts, to love one another, and to live in peace.

But our sins and the mistakes we make hurt our relationship with God, with others, and with the world, so we don't always have the joy that God wants us to have.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to say no to evil

and to anything that takes us away from God and other people.

So I invite you into the season of Lent and the work God asks of us –

to think closely about what we do; to turn to God;

to pray and to give up things that aren't good for us; and to help and love others.

God will help us do these things through the 40 days of Lent

until we remember Jesus' dying on Good Friday and rising again at Easter.

**C: Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Director of Faith Formation invites the children to prepare for the confession.*

P: The world is filled with messages telling us that all kinds of bad things are ok. These are things that we call sin, and sometimes we make mistakes and we do those bad things. But as we begin the season of Lent, we take time to tell God that we are sorry for our sins. And so I invite you to join me in turning your back on sin, and turning back toward God.

*For this confession, as we turn our backs on sin, we invite those who are able to jump and spin in the opposite direction, turning toward God and Jesus. All are invited to join in the responses.*

P: Will you turn your back on all the sin that the world says is OK?

If so, we will turn and say:

**C: I do!**

*The leaders and worshipers turn again to face in the original direction.*

P: Do you turn your back on being selfish and greedy, on looking out only for yourself and taking what you want?

If so, we're going to turn to Jesus and say, "I do."

**C: I do!**

*The leaders and worshipers turn again to face in the original direction.*

P: Do you turn your back on anything that stops you from loving your neighbor? Do you turn your back on hitting and hurting, name-calling and bullying?

If so, we're going to turn to Jesus and say, "I do."

**C: I do!**

*The leaders and worshipers turn again to face in the original direction.*

P: Do you turn your back on anything that keeps you from loving God?

*All turn and say:*

**C: I do!**

L: Do you promise to follow Jesus and his teaching, and to show his love in your life?

If so, say, "I will with God's help."

**C: I will, with God's help!**

Let us pray: God, sometimes we want to be selfish and do what we want, even when it hurts others. As we start this Lent, we need you to help us turn away from evil and toward you and your love.

Be with us. Love us and guide us.

Give us the strength to share your love, and the love of Jesus, with the whole world.

We pray in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

## **Gospel – Matthew 6**

*If worshipers have a Spark Story Bible, we invite you to follow along on page 278.*

The disciples have seen Jesus do many amazing things: heal the sick, teach in the temple, and pray to God. They wanted to learn everything they could from Jesus. "Teach us to pray," they said. Out of all the things Jesus did, they thought this was the most important.

"When you pray," Jesus said, "don't be like the people who stand on the street and use big words, loud voices, and long prayers. Find a place where you can be alone. Then you will think only about God."

Jesus said this prayer to show the disciples the way they could pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

When Jesus said these words, he was saying that God is holy and important here on earth and in heaven, too. He was asking God to give him what he needed each day, and Jesus was also teaching people to ask God to forgive all our sins, which God always does, and to help us learn to forgive other people. Jesus asked God to help him remember to do what's right and not what's wrong. He finished his prayer by saying that everything in the world belongs to God forever and ever.

Jesus taught the disciples so much about prayer! They never forgot how Jesus told them to pray the words that Jesus used to pray to God.

## **Imposition of Ashes**

P: At our Baptism, we were marked on our foreheads with a cross of oil, which was a sign of God's love in Jesus.  
On Ash Wednesday we are also marked with a cross – this time, of ashes. We hear the words, “remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” This reminds us that things are not always so wonderful, that we are not always so wonderful. We make mistakes, we hurt people, we sin. The dust reminds us that we need God, but the cross reminds us that even though we are sinners, God still forgives us and loves us through Jesus.

*The presiding minister demonstrates the imposition of ashes. Those in the St. Andrew congregation who have received a box of resources for Lent are invited to take out the cotton swab dipped in Chrism oil, the packet of ash mixed with dust from the earth, and the prayer card. You may also find it helpful to have a small bowl to hold the ashes. Dip the swab in the ash and trace the sign of the cross on your own forehead and/or on those of the people in your household. It is traditional when tracing the sign of the cross with ash to say the words:*

**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

*After the Imposition*

P: O God, do your good works in us, so your light will shine through us to all the world.

By the cross of your Son, Jesus, bring us and all your people to new life.

Almighty God forgive us all our sins through Jesus,  
keep us strong in all good things, and with the help of the Holy Spirit keep us in unending life.  
**C: Amen.**

## **Ash Wednesday Activity and Explanation**

*Those in the St. Andrew congregation who have received a bag of Lenten resources for children are invited to take the piece of paper and black crayon from the bag.*

*The Director of Faith Formation leads children in drawing a large cross on the piece of paper and then trying to erase it.*

DFE: When we try to erase the crayon on the paper, and the ashes on our foreheads, the ashes are still there, and so is the crayon. The same is true when we do wrong. We try to forgive ourselves and other people, but sin still hurts. Even though we've sinned and hurt ourselves and others, God still forgives us. God still tells us and shows us that we are cared for and loved. And that is something that can never be erased.

## **Prayer**

P: Let us pray. Loving God, be with us in these forty days of Lent.  
Help us think of your gift of Baptism, so that we can help and pray for people in need,  
give up the things that aren't good for us, and most of all,  
remember how wonderful your Son, Jesus, is,  
the one who shows us your love  
and lives in heaven with you and the Holy Spirit as one God forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Blessing**

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

P: Go now into the world; be strong and brave;  
love the things that are good;  
when people do bad things to you, don't fight back;  
help people who are tired, weak, or having trouble; be good to all people;  
love and serve God happily with the help of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### *Abbreviations*

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

DFF: Director of Faith Formation

**C: Congregation**

### *Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements*

Thisted Arthur, Patti. *Spark Story Bible*. Minneapolis, MN: 1517 Media – Sparkhouse Press, 2009, p. 278-281. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.