



*Ash
Wednesday
Service*

“If we really want to love
we must learn how to forgive”

Mother Teresa

Introduction The cross of Ashes that is placed on your forehead on this special day is a sign for everyone to see that you are willing to repent and believe the Good News. These ashes were once the palms of Palm Sunday so they are also ashes of hope. We take them too, to remind ourselves that we are part of **the God's creations**. We are made by God for life, as is the earth and its dust.

Pope Benedict speaks of our cosmic story when he says that ***“you and I are made up of ashes of dead stars, that we are as it were, cosmic dust in a state of consciousness.”***

Opening Hymn **Come Worship the Lord** *(John Michael Talbot)*

Opening Prayer Dear God, you give us life and all of the wonders of creation. Sometimes we sin and turn away from your love. Help us to remember today that even when we do this that you are always with us. As we wear these ashes help us to feel your healing, forgiving presence. Amen

Sacred Space

- Reader 1 As we start our Lenten journey, we place a Bible on our Sacred Space. May what we read in these sacred scriptures be stepping stones for us this Lent.
- Reader 2 As we start our Lenten journey, we place Holy Water on our Sacred Space. This water reminds us of our baptism and God's overflowing love for us.
- Reader 3 As we begin our Lenten journey ,we place a cross on our Sacred Space which reminds us that God sent his only son to earth to die for us and to show us how to live by his example.
- Reader 4 As we start our Lenten journey, we place a list of our Lenten promises on our Sacred Space. We have made these promises so that we will try to be better people who are growing ever closer to God.
- Reader 5 We place a candle on our Sacred Space which we light as a reminder that God is the Light of the world and is always with us.



Gospel Reading

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. (Mark 1:14-15)

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. "The time has come," he said "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe in the Good News."

This is the word of the Lord



Distribution of Ashes

Leader If you are ready to carry the Good News of Jesus to everyone that you know, come forward to receive the ashes on your forehead.

Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel is said as the ashes are distributed to each person

Closing Prayer Dear God, as we wear these ashes today help us to remember that you always love us. Help us not to be too busy to feel you with us in our daily lives. Make us a forgiving, healing community. Help us to turn away from things that take us away from your love. Amen

Closing Hymn **What So Ever You Do**

