



First Baptist Church

Ash Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

**Indicates congregation is invited to stand as able*

We Gather as God's People

Silent Prayer: Almighty God, without you, we have nothing. Draw near to us again. Jesus, you alone are our hope and the hope of the world. Holy Spirit, you are our comfort and our counsellor. Help us to recognize the sin in our lives. By your grace, may we be changed. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson

Old Testament Lesson: Joel 2:12 - 18

*Hymn of Invitation

“Come As You Are”

by David Crowder

**Come out of sadness from wherever you've been;
Come broken hearted, let rescue begin.
Come find your mercy, oh sinner, come kneel:
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal. *(Repeat)***

**There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed.
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace.
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures:
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure. *(Repeat)***

**The Father is calling, “Come as you are.”
Join Christ in the water; take up your cross;
Welcome God's Spirit and new life receive:
Earth has no sorrow, that God can't redeem. *(Repeat)***

*Prayer of Invocation

*Welcome

The love of the Father, the grace of the Son and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Second Lesson

Gospel Lesson: the Gospel According to Luke 4:4-13

*Hymn

“Lamb of God”

By Twila Paris

**Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side,
To walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.**

(Refrain:)

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God! I love the holy Lamb of God.

O wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Your gift of love they crucified, they laughed and scorned him as he died.

The humble King they named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. *(Refrain)*

I was so lost I should have died, but you have brought me to your side

To be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God. *(Refrain)*

Third Lesson

Gospel Lesson: the Gospel According to Luke 9:21-27

Call to Receive the Ashes:

If you so choose, you are invited to come forward and receive the sign of the cross made with ashes with these words, "Remember that you are dust and that to dust you shall return."

*Hymn

"O Come to the Altar"

by Elevation

**Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?
Jesus is calling.**

**Have you come to the end of yourself?
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?
Jesus is calling.**

(Refrain:)

**O come to the altar, the Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.**

**Leave behind your regrets and mistakes,
Come today, there's no reason to wait,
Jesus is calling.**

**Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy,
From the ashes, a new life is born,
Jesus is calling.**

Fourth Lesson

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

You are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sin and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God, you will not despise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end. Amen.

Forgive us, Lord God, when we go through our day without stopping to listen to what you want us to do and to say; when we have let all the bad things that happen in life overshadow your goodness to us; when we have put our own plans ahead of seeking to be with you and ahead of your will:

Lord, have mercy.

Forgive us when we have used your commands to judge others instead of looking at ourselves in the mirror; when we have treated others dismissively; when we have failed to forgive as we have been forgiven:

Lord, have mercy.

Forgive us when we have not loved one another as Christ loved us; when we have put money ahead of people; when we have neglected to give to those in need; when we have hoarded our time for our own pleasure.

Lord, have mercy.

Forgive us when we have given in to anger, lust, greed, gluttony, laziness, pride, envy, despondency; when we have encouraged others to sin; when we have made light of sin.

Lord, have mercy.

In the silence that follows, we confess to you before all of heaven those things which your Spirit brings to our attention.

(Silent Prayer)

Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Fifth Lesson

Old Testament Lesson: The Prophet Isaiah 58:3-12

*Hymn

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

#371

**Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way;
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.**

**Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
As in thy presence humbly I bow.**

**Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!
Power, all power, surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Saviour divine!**

**Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way;
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me.**

“Spirit of the Living God”

#247

**Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.**

Sixth Lesson

Epistle Lesson: The 2nd Letter to the 2 Corinthians 5:14 - 17

*Hymn

“Love divine”

#92

**Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav'n to Earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit, Let us find thy promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Finish, then, thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

Seventh Lesson

Epistle Lesson: The 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 5:18 - 6:2

*Hymn

“Rock of Ages”

#204

**Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; save from its guilt and power.**

**Not the labours of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.**

(Cont'd, see over)

**Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Saviour, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We Depart to Serve God

*Hymn of Departure "Lead Me to Calvary" #176

**King of my life, I crown thee now, thine shall the glory be;
Lest I forget thy thorn crowned brow, lead me to Calvary.**

**Lest I forget Gethsemane; lest I forget thine agony;
Lest I forget thy love for me, lead me to Calvary.**

**May I be willing, Lord, to bear daily my cross for thee;
Even thy cup of grief to share, thou hast borne all for me.**

**Lest I forget Gethsemane; lest I forget thine agony;
Lest I forget thy love for me, lead me to Calvary.**

*Benediction