

Lancaster Theological Seminary

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

February 17 and 20, 2021



“Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near-”

~ Joel 2:1b (NRSV)



Gathering as the Body of Christ.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH REFLECTIONS

CENTERING SONG

“ANOINTING FALL ON ME”

AAHH #318

GREETING

Spirit of God, who led Jesus into the desert to fast and pray,
Lead us as we enter this time of Lent.

Give us courage to scrutinize our hearts with honesty.

Give us strength to deal with what we find.

Give us love to forgive ourselves and each other,

We pray through Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Presider Come into the light!

Many We know the darkness better. The Light frightens us.

Come into the presence of Love.

Our fears and doubts overwhelm us. We feel unable to move.

Come let God’s love wash away your sorrow.

Help us, God. We are filled with fear and sorrow.

Bring us healing.

AMEN.

OPENING HYMN

“GIVE ME A CLEAN HEART”

MARGARET DOURoux

Give me a clean heart, so I may serve Thee.

Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by Thee.

For I’m not worthy of all these blessings;

Give me a clean heart and I’ll follow Thee.

The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

As we enter this Lenten season
Let us now come before God with words of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Presider: Have mercy on us, O Lord, according to your steadfast love,

**Many: Blot out that which has kept us from you -
the sins of things we have done,
and the sins of things we have left undone.**

Wash us for our sin is ever before you.

Through your power alone can we be made clean.

Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within us.

**Forgive us, Lord, and our lips will declare your praise!
This we pray in your holy and merciful name. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

I proclaim to you this day, our sins have been forgiven.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to pass the peace to each other by waving or by typing in the chat function in Zoom.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

“EARTHSEED”

OCTAVIA E. BUTLER

Here we are –
Energy,
Mass,
Life,
Shaping life,
Mind,
Shaping Mind
God,
Shaping God.
Consider—
We are born
Not with purpose,
But with potential.
All that you touch
You Change.
All that you Change
Changes you.
The only lasting truth
Is Change.
God
Is Change.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17 NRSV

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—
a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

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

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?
Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 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.

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?’”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON **2/17 CHYNAAH MARYOUNG-COOKE** **2/20 MARTHA HARRIS**

SONG OF RESPONSE **“LET THE CHURCH SAY AMEN”** **ANDRAE CROUCH**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

You are invited to express your joys and concerns in the chat function in Zoom.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG **“I WILL TRUST IN THE LORD”** **SPIRITUAL**

If you have not already gathered your elements for communion you may do so during this time.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Presider: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift our hearts to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Creator God, we lift our hearts to you
because you made the universe from nothing
and formed human beings in your image from the dust of the earth.
In Adam you saw your hopes for creation turn to ashes,
and yet in Abraham and Moses
you called a people out of wilderness and slavery.

You showed your face to your people in exile,
and in Christ, the new Adam, you raised your children
to new life out of the ashes of sin and death.
And so we gladly praise and thank you,
with angels and archangels and the company of heaven,
singing your unending praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Redeemer God, over forty days you flooded the earth,
over forty years you led your people through the wilderness,
and over forty days your Spirit led Jesus through the desert.
Bless us through the sustenance of this food and drink
to profess your Son's death and resurrection.

Send your Holy Spirit, that we may come
to resemble and follow our crucified and risen Savior,
and that this bread and this cup may become for us
our everlasting banquet,
the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them saying,
"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me."
After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of our faith.
Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Sanctifying God, where your children are in the wilderness,
lead them to your heart.

Where your people are hungry for you,
give them practices of fasting and scripture reading
and almsgiving and repentance and prayer.

Where your followers know beatings, imprisonments,
hardships and calamities,
visit them with the comforting power of your presence.

Raise up the glory of your resurrection
from the ashes of our pride, and sloth, and greed,
that all your church and the whole creation
may celebrate the wonders of your love,
until the day when every eye shall see you
and every tongue shall praise you, and you are all in all,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Amen

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

CLOSING SONG

“WALK WITH ME, LORD”

SPIRITUAL

BENEDICTION

SENDING

*“I am grateful to have been loved, and to be loved now and to be able to love. Because
love liberates.” — Maya Angelou*

POSTLUDE

INSTRUMENTAL

Cover Art: Shepley, Rose, “Sound the Trumpet,” Original watercolor on canvas, 2020.

Greeting: <https://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/formationandleadership/prayer/Documents/Ash+Wednesday.pdf>, “Ritual for Ash Wednesday: From Ashes to Life”, accessed June 23, 2020

Call to Worship: Nancy C. Townley, June 14, 2019, “Worship Connection: Ash Wednesday”, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3489/worship-connection-ash-wednesday>, accessed June 23, 2020

Invitation to the observance of Lenten discipline: adapted from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-service-of-worship-for-ash-wednesday>. Accessed February 11, 2021.

Confession and Assurance: <http://www.stephenmfearing.com/liturgy//confession-ash-wednesday-year-c-february-10th-2016>, Confession | Ash Wednesday (Year C) | February 10th, 2016, January 14, 2016, accessed June 23, 2020

Poem: Butler, Octavia E. Parable of the Talents: Earthseed. New York, NY: Seven Stories Press, 1998.

Communion Liturgy: Adapted from *Eucharistic Prayers* by Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016.

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL WORSHIP TEAM

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THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.