**Remember!**

**A service of communion**

**for the beginning of Lent/ Ash Wednesday**

Lent is the season of the church year that follows the Christmas Season. It is a time we set aside each year to remember the love of God that is poured out through Christ Jesus on the cross in His death; and His defeat of death, sin and Satan in Christ’s death and resurrection that brings Eternal Life to you. This season has a penitential character, a solemn nature to it. This is to help us remember to be repentant and remind us of our sin and our mortality. It begins with Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of forty days when Jesus fasted reflecting on the temptations of Jesus and His approach to the sacrifice and self-denial of the Cross.

**Note: the fasting (that is so often identified with Lent and the forty days before Easter), does not have to be fasting from food. Many, especially for medical reasons, chose to fast from something else that they love and spend that time or money seeking God’s presence.**

**Call to Worship**: Psalm 105:1-8

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name. Make known among the nations what he has done.

**Sing to him, sing praise to him. Tell of all his wonderful acts.**

Glory in his holy name. Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

**Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.**

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.

**He is the Lord Our God. He remembers His covenant forever, the word He commanded, for a thousand generations.**

**Prayer**

“Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who repent. You are the source of all grace and mercy. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we who come to you in penitence lamenting our failures and our sins, may receive from you: forgiveness, reconciliation, and transformation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Worship through Song**:

“Down at the Cross” or “Jesus Paid it All” or “At Calvary.”

**Scripture Reading**:

Isaiah 53

**Additional Scripture:** Joel 2:1-2,12-13

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill.     Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand- a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come. "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

# Silent Reflection (Five Minutes)

***Psalm of Confession****:* Psalm 51:1-4; v.17, v.10  
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; you who have great mercy, forgive what I have done.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

For I know what I have done wrong; my sins are ever before me and heavy on my heart.

**Against you, God, you only, have I sinned; you who know all things know what I have done.**

You have every right to judge me for my actions and every right to punish me for them.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit….**

You take no delight in sacrifices; you would not be pleased if I were to offer one to you. The sacrifice acceptable to you is a broken spirit; a contrite heart, O God, you will not reject.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

# Silent Reflection: (Five Minutes)

**Worship through Song**:

Hymn: “I Gave My Life for Thee” or “Amazing Grace”

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So, when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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***The Lord’s Prayer* (Matthew 6:9-15)**

***Chorus of Praise* “Because He Lives!!!”**