

## ASH WEDNESDAY

### Chiming of the Hour

### Choral Meditation

"These Forty Days"

Reissner

### Prayer of the Day

### Opening Sentences

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

**God's love endures forever.**

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**God's love endures forever.**

**+Opening Hymn # 421** "Have Mercy, God, upon My Life"

Irish

### Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

*Hebrew Scriptures:* Isaiah 58:1-12 (p. 647)

*New Testament:* 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 (pp. 170-171)

*Gospel Reading:* Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (pp. 5-6)

### Invitation to Observe Holy Lent

### Psalms 51:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

<sup>7</sup>Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

<sup>8</sup>**Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

<sup>14</sup>**Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.**

<sup>15</sup>Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

<sup>16</sup>**Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt offerings.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

### Prayer of Penitence

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Moment for Silent Confession*

**+Hymn # 433**

"Sign Us with Ashes"  
(Verses 1, 2, 5, and 6)

Phoenix

### Imposition of Ashes

### Prayer

**+Sending Hymn # 739**

"O for a Closer Walk with God"

Caithness

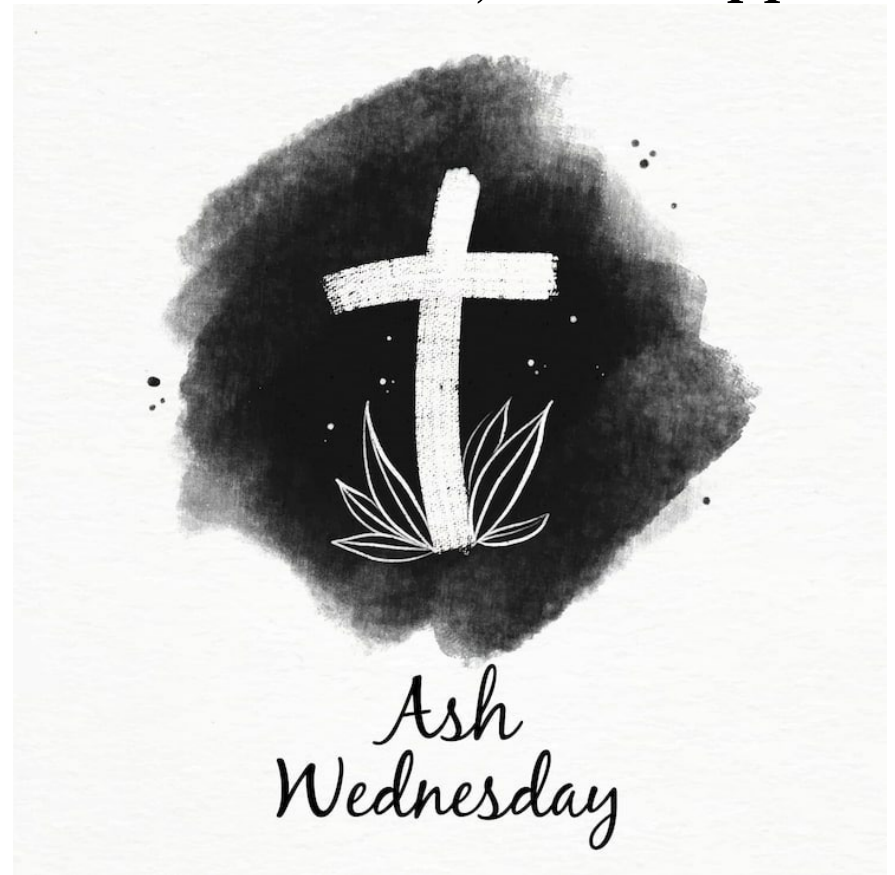
### +Benediction

### +Postlude

+ Indicates a time to stand as you are comfortable in doing so.

**Please join in unison reading of the bold print.**

First Presbyterian Church  
Columbus, Mississippi



Thomas Richardson  
February 18, 2026