



**THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP**  
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
February 25, 2009

# **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Mortality

Surrender

Hope



# MORTALITY

## SONG

Kyrie Eleison

Translated:

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,  
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison,  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,

(God have Mercy)  
(Christ Mercy)  
(God have Mercy)

## BIBLE READING

Psalm 90:1-12

## HOMILY

Mortality

Cláudio Carvalhaes

## DANCE

Katrina Pekich-Bundy

## PRAYER

The darkness asks us questions.  
You are out there and we do not see.  
You invite us into the night,  
the stillness, the loneliness, the desert place.

We cannot see our shadow;  
the cold damp of unknowing rises up from beneath our feet.  
We tread cautiously, tentatively.

We are afraid,  
afraid of ghosts  
haunting us with spectres of guilt  
and shame.

We would like to run back,  
reach the river bank,  
swim the Jordan,  
sit in the sun by the sea,  
mending our nets.  
But you have brought us here  
- with no bread.

When we look we can see only ourselves,  
our darkness.  
When we read,  
it is invisible words which cannot be grasped, thoughts we cannot clutch, hope we  
cannot capture.



Yet the wild honey remains a taste in our mouth, a memory for a new day.

Why have you brought us here?  
What miracle will you perform for us?

The darkness sighs around us,  
dense with your unseen presence,  
close to our breathing,  
close to our breathing.

O darkness, enlighten us,  
embrace us with your invisible love.  
Let us see your glory in the ashes.  
Take us by the hand that we may trust the darkness.  
Minister to us by your Spirit that we may not be afraid.  
Jesus, keep the beasts away. Amen.

SILENCE

COMMON PRAYER

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy  
you breathed into dust the breath of life,  
creating us to serve you and our neighbors.  
In this season of repentance,  
restore to us the joy of our salvation;  
strengthen us to face our mortality,  
that we may reach with confidence for your mercy;  
in Jesus Christ our God,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

SILENCE

## SURRENDER

SONG

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,  
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison,  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,

Translated:

(God have Mercy)

(Christ Mercy)

(God have Mercy)

BIBLE READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17



**HOMILY**

Surrender

Cláudio Carvalhaes

**HYMN/DANCE**

*I Surrender All*

Katrina Pekich-Bundy

All to Jesus, I surrender;  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.

I surrender all, I surrender all,  
All to Thee, my blessèd Savior,  
I surrender all.

**SILENT PRAYER**

**COMMON PRAYER**

God,  
Protect us in our struggle against evil.  
As we begin the discipline of Lent,  
make this season holy by our self-denial.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever.

**SILENCE**

## HOPE

**SONG**

Kyrie Eleison

Translated:

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Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison,  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,

(God have Mercy)

(Christ Mercy)

(God have Mercy)

**BIBLE READING**

Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

**HOMILY**

Hope

Cláudio Carvalhaes

**HYMN/DANCE**

Be Thou My Vision

Katrina Pekich-Bundy

Be Thou my Vision, O God of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.



Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High God of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### COMMON PRAYER

Jesus, you place on my forehead  
the sign of my sister Death:  
"Remember you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."

How not hear her wise advice?  
One day my life on earth will end;  
the limits on my years are set,  
though I know not the day or hour.  
Shall I be ready to go to meet you?  
Let this holy season be a time of grace  
for me and all this world.

"Teach us to number our days aright,  
that we may gain wisdom of heart."

O Jesus, you place on my forehead  
the sign of your saving Cross:  
"Turn from sin and be faithful  
to the gospel."

How can I turn from sin  
unless I turn to you?

You speak, you raise your hand,  
you touch my mind and call my name,  
"Turn to the Lord your God again."

These days of your favor  
leave a blessing as you pass  
on me and all your people.  
Turn to us, Lord God,  
and we shall turn to you.



*As we leave... Receive the Ashes*

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and calls us to place our hope in God alone. I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

POSTLUDE

*Kyrie Eleison* and Imposition of Ashes

Resources:

William Loader, 15 February 1999,

A Corporate Prayer of Confession for Ash Wednesday (Based on Psalm 51:3)

Janet Morley, *All Desires Known*, Expanded Edition, Morehouse Publishing, 1994.

International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL)

From Metropolitan Community 2008 resources

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Thanks for today's worship leadership to: Chapel Ministers, Cláudio Carvalhaes, Jonathan Jones, Gail Monsma, Katrina Pekich-Bundy, and Dave Trevino.

*Please help us recycle!* If you don't want to take your bulletin home with you, kindly place it on the podium by the door. Thank you!