**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Ash Wednesday March 5, 2025**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all goodness and grace,
we have gathered on this solemn night,
to smear our foreheads with ashes,
and to be bluntly reminded of our mortality.
You formed us from dust and to dust we shall return.
Even amidst the solemnity of this evening,
we give you thanks for calling us your children.
We give you thanks for calling us on this journey.
We remember on this dark evening,
that we are human and you alone are God.
In this season of Lent,
we gather on a journey of trust -
trust that your creation does not end with our death.
Indeed, your creation knows no boundaries,
and, yet, we are bound inevitably to your will and your Word.

With all creation, in every time and place,
we join the everlasting chorus:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Standing between past and future,
we remember the journey we will take again
while we wait for that blessed Easter.
We remember Jesus' birth into poverty.
We remember how he grew up in wisdom and in years -
     how he invited disciples to follow him,
     how he stood up to the powers that be,
     how he touched the sinner and challenged the saint,
     how he preached good news to the poor and marginalized,
     how he cared as much for people's bodies as he did their souls.

We remember how he gathered his friends on the night he was betrayed, how he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:
"take, eat, do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, he took the cup and, pouring it, said:
"this is the cup of salvation, shed in my blood, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

For as long as we eat this bread and drink of this cup,
we proclaim the resurrection of our living savior until he comes again.

Together, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Gracious God,
we give you thanks for your gifts of bread and juice
and ask that they may transform us to your presence.
We give you thanks that, even though we will return to dust,
you nevertheless invite us to this meal as a friend.
Though we are not worthy of the grace received here,
we are invited as the most beloved of companions.
Send your Spirit to abide with us that we may abide with you.

**Amen.**

(Rev. Stephen M. Fearing, M.DIV., M.A.P.T., 2022)