

Ash Wednesday | 3.2.22

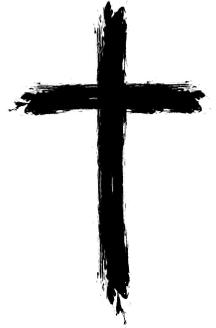
Ash Wednesday marks the official beginning of the season of Lent. Maybe the most common tradition and marker of Ash Wednesday is the imposition (placement) of ashes on foreheads.

Scripture is full of stories of God's people using ashes and dust to signify grief and repentance (Jonah 3:5-9, Job 42:6, Jeremiah 6:26). Today, Christians all over the world use the ashes of Ash Wednesday as a reminder of our sinful nature - and in turn, that the cost of sin is death. God said to Adam, "You are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). This reminder of our mortality also serves as our reminder for the need of a Savior. Ashes are placed on foreheads in the shape of a cross. This symbol reminds us that Christ has paid the cost of sin for us. On Ash Wednesday, and throughout Lent, we reflect on our nature as sinful humans, and our identities as people who are loved and redeemed by a loving God.

Join us for Ash Wednesday Worship @ 6:30pm on 3.2.22

In-person at 739 Lafond Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104

Online at: www.youtube.com/ststephanusworship



Did you know?

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are often the burn ashes of the Palm Sunday fronds from the previous year. This practice is done to remind us of our sin and doubt. On Palm Sunday Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem as King - and just days later is crucified as a criminal. By using these same palms we are confessing those times when we too have lost faith.

Imposition of Ashes @ Home

If you are worshiping from home this Ash Wednesday, or you want to start the day with the imposition of ashes, you can make your own ashes at home. Ashes can be made from burning paper and mixing the ashes with olive oil (do not use water - this can cause skin irritation). To add an additional layer of meaning to the practice, first write down sins you want to confess to God on the paper before burning it. In lieu of ashes, you can also use an oil like olive oil, or water alone, for making the sign of the cross.

Whatever you choose to use, say these words to yourself, or to those in your home as you make the sign of the cross on foreheads: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."