Today, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of Lent, which is the penitential season lasting 40 days before Easter but excluding the six Sundays (considered feast days). These forty days recall the Israelites’ forty years in the desert and Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness. As Christians begin the season of Lent today, Ash Wednesday is an opportunity for us to go deeper into our hearts and into the souls of our communities, and to recognize the horror and depth of our estrangement from God. In practicing the disciplines of Lent, such as self-examination and repentance, we seek systematically to put things right.
The congregation is asked to remain silent during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation.

**ENTRANCE**

**PRELUDE**

**GREETING**

*Opening Hymn 269

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

**LAND OF REST**

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**Prayer for Illumination (in unison)**

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you:
as we hear your word today, rescue us from the chaos of sin
and, through the death of your Son, bring us healing
and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Old Testament Lesson—Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (OT page 798 in the pew Bible)**

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 51 (Pages 785-86 in the hymnal.)**

(The congregation will sing the text in bold type.)

*Gospel Lesson—Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (NT page 5-6)

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**HOMILY**

**INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT**

**Prayer Over the Ashes**

**Imposition of Ashes**

Those wishing to receive ashes will come forward to the stations. When all who desire have received the ashes, the service will continue as follows:

**Litany of Penitence**

(The congregation responds with the text in bold.)

God the Father,

*Have mercy on us.*

God the Son,

*Have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Spirit,

*Have mercy on us.*
Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,
Have mercy on us.
From our pride, vanity, and hypocrisy,
and from all our evil plans,
Deliver us.
From our envy and malice,
and from our hardness of heart,
Deliver us.
From our sloth and worldliness,
and from our lack of compassion,
Deliver us.
From our love of money, our hoarding of possessions,
and from our relentless desire to accumulate more,
Deliver us.
From the lust for sexual pleasure
that obscures the true gift of love in us and in others,
Deliver us.
From the gorging of food, the indulging of our appetites,
and from our neglect of the hungry,
Deliver us.
From our hatred, anger, and quick temper,
and from our reluctance to be reconciled with those we have hurt,
Deliver us.
Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PEACE
(Exchange signs and words of God’s peace.)

CALL TO PRAYER
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
(The congregation responds to each petition: “Hear our prayer.”)
*The Lord’s Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sending Forth

Benediction

*Recessional Hymn 417
O For a Heart to Praise My God

*Postlude

All who are able may stand.
ON ASH WEDNESDAY:
AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE
THROUGH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Having no other gods  Do I love God with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength?
Making no idols  Do I put possessions, career, family, reputation, or health ahead of God? Do I treat money, sex, and power as gifts or gods?
Revering God’s name  Do all my words and actions glorify God?
Keeping the Sabbath  Do I let work take over my life? Do I find my identity in work or in being God’s child? Do I set aside a full day each week to rest?
Honoring parents  Do my parents know I value and respect them? Do my children?
Respecting life  How do I respond when I am humiliated, insulted, or treated unfairly? Am I quick to forgive, or do I hold grudges and seek revenge? Do I let my anger get the better of me?
Respecting marriage  Am I chaste? Do I flirt? Do I treat friends or strangers as objects of my lust? Do I treat sex as a precious and holy gift? Do I support and affirm the marriages of others?
Respecting property  Am I greedy? Do I have things that rightly belong to others? Am I honest with regard to taxes, expenses, loans, and debts? Am I a generous giver?
Respecting truth  Do I exaggerate to impress? Do I gossip? Do I keep my promises? Do I face the truth about myself? Do I share my true self with others?
Curtailing envy  Am I jealous? Am I thankful? Am I content with what God has given me? Is the grass always greener on the other side? Do I curse the fact that life always seems easier for others?

A LENTEN PRAYER—FOR PERSONAL LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Lord Jesus, you fasted and prayed for forty days. Help me to fast and pray during this time of Lent. Free my mind from distraction and worry, that I may be more aware of your love and more sensitive to others. Give me a spirit of generosity, so that I might share my gifts more freely with those who have less. Teach me to pray, that I might offer you praise and be more thankful. Help me make time to reflect on your Word; may it challenge, console, and purify me. Be with me in times of hurt, doubt, and confusion; unite my sufferings to yours and let them be redemptive. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, free me from sin, let me rise with you this Easter. I ask this in the name of Jesus, who died that I might have life to the full. Amen.
Holy Week at Duke Chapel

Saturday, April 16
2:00 pm Duke Vespers Ensemble
    Spring Concert
    Beata Progenies — English music about biblical families.

Sunday, April 17 Palm/Passion Sunday
11:00 am University Service of Worship
    The Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells
11:00 am Catholic Palm Sunday Mass
    White Lecture Hall
    East Campus
9:00 pm Catholic Palm Sunday Mass

Monday, April 18
12:00 noon Holy Week Noon Service
    The Rev. Keith Daniel
5:15 pm Catholic Mass
    Goodson Chapel

Tuesday, April 19
12:00 noon Holy Week Noon Service
    Ms. Katie Benjamin
    Worship Intern
5:15 pm Catholic Mass
    Duke Chapel Crypt

Wednesday, April 20
12:00 noon Holy Week Noon Service
    The Rev. Kori Jones
5:15 pm Service of Prayer and Holy Communion
    Memorial Chapel

Thursday, April 21 Maundy Thursday
12:00 noon Holy Week Noon Service
    Memorial Chapel
6:30 pm Service of Footwashing
    Duke Chapel Crypt
7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service*  
    The Rev. Bruce Puckett
    Stripping of the Altar
    Service of the Lord’s Supper

Friday, April 22 Good Friday
11:30 am Procession of the Stations of the Cross
    beginning on the Chapel steps
12:00 noon Service of Good Friday
    Fr. Michael Martin
    Director, Catholic Center
1:00-3:00 pm Meditative organ music
5:00 pm Catholic Liturgy of Good Friday
7:30 pm Service of Tenebrae (Darkness)*
    The Rev. Dr. Sam Wells

Saturday, April 23 Holy Saturday
8:00 pm Catholic Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 24 Easter Sunday
6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service
    The Rev. Dr. Sam Wells
    Duke Gardens South Lawn
9:00 am Service of Worship
    Service of Holy Communion
    The Rev. Dr. Sam Wells
11:00 am Service of Worship
    The Rev. Dr. Sam Wells
11:00 am Catholic Mass for Easter
    Duke Gardens South Lawn
9:00 pm Catholic Mass for Easter

*Because silence will be observed in these services, a limited capacity nursery will be available for children under 6.

All events in Duke Chapel unless otherwise noted.
For more information, visit www.chapel.duke.