

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

Wilson Chapel



Hosted by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

RISE

One: We are invited

All: into the story, into this place, into this hour of worship.

One: We are invited

All: into reflection, into community, into our own Spiritual journeys.

One: We are invited

All: the broken and bruised, the hopeful, the new, the faithful, the doubting, the wondering, the waiting

One: We are invited

All: because God so loved;

One: So, listen, trust the invitation, and bring your whole self, as we remember we are dust and to dust we will return, all the presence of God our Creator and Redeemer.

All: All are invited here.

Call to Confession and Kyrie

Call to Confession

Sung Kyrie (music on next page):

One: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

All: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy

One: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord

All: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy

One: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the Lord

All: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy

One: Help, save, and defend us, O God

All: Amen

Sung responses: Now the Feast, Marty Haugen, ©1990, GIA

Refrain

Congregation:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save and de - fend us, O
Congregation:
God. A - men.

Reading I Joel 2:1-2, 12-18

NRSVUE

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—
a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains,

a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,

nor will be again after them

in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,

return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD your God,

for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,

and relenting from punishment.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent

and leave a blessing behind him,

a grain offering and a drink offering

for the Lord your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

consecrate a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;

assemble the aged;

gather the children,

even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room

and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar,

let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,

and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,

'Where is their God?' "

Then the LORD became jealous for his land

and had pity on his people.

The word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God

Psalm 51

Trans. Robert Alter, adapted

Grant me grace, God, as benefits your kindness,
with Your great mercy wipe away my crimes.

**Thoroughly wash my transgressions away
and cleanse me from my offense.**

For my crimes I know,
and my offense is before me always.

**You alone have I offended,
and what is evil in Your eyes I have done.**

So You are just when You sentence,
You are right when You judge.

**Look, in transgression was I conceived,
and in offence my mother spawned me.**

Look, You desired truth in what is hidden;
in what is concealed make wisdom known to me.

**Purify me with a hyssop, that I be clean.
Wash me, that I be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear gladness and joy,
let the bones that You crushed exult.

**Avert Your face from my offenses,
and all my misdeeds wipe away.**

A pure heart create for me, God,
and a firm spirit renew within me.

**Do not fling me from Your presence,
and Your holy spirit take not from me.**

Give me back the gladness of Your rescue
and with a noble spirit sustain me.

**Let me teach transgressors Your ways,
and offenders will come back to You.**

Save me from bloodshed, O God,
God of my rescue.

Let my tongue sing out Your bounty.

**O Lord, open my lips,
that my mouth may tell Your praise.**

For You desire not that I should give sacrifice,
Burt-offering You greet not with pleasure.

**God's sacrifices—a broken spirit.
A broken, crushed heart God spurns not.**

Show goodness in Your pleasure to Zion,
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem

**Then shall You desire just sacrifices,
Burnt offering and whole offering,
Then bulls will be offered up on Your altar.**

Amen

Reading II 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

NKJV

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says:

"In an acceptable time I have heard you,
and in the day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

The word of the Lord.

If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

NABRE

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, and thieves do not break in and steal; for where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

The Gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Blessing & Imposition of Ashes

Take, O Take Me As I Am

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.' The music concludes with a double bar line.

Words and Music by John L. Bell, © 1995, WGRG, The Iona Community (Scotland)

Prayers of the Community and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

You are invited to join in the Lord's Prayer with the language and version that is most familiar to you. Two versions are included below.

Catholic, English

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.

Ecumenical, English

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours
Now and for ever. Amen.

Community Benediction

In unison

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you : wherever God may send you;
may it guide you through the wilderness : protect you through the storm;
may it bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders God has shown you;
may it bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors.**

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Christian Life at Skidmore & Upcoming Events

Connect with Christian Life at Skidmore—whatever that means for you!

Fill out our interest form (www.bit.ly/SkidORSL), or email Parker Diggory (kdiggory@skidmore.edu), or set up a time to meet . We can help connect you to on and off campus opportunities or help set up new ones!

Weekly Church Services (off Campus)

Carpools and/or other transportation assistance is available to local churches including Catholic Mass, Protestant, Nondenominational, and Orthodox services. Contact: Parker Diggory, Director of Religious and Spiritual Life, kdiggory@skidmore.edu

Weekly Christian Prayer on campus

Mondays at 12:30 pm, Case 205, Office of Religious & Spiritual Life

Palm Crosses

Week before Palm Sunday (Thursday March 21 or Friday March 22 , schedule TBA) Case Center 2nd floor tables: Drop by to make (or just receive!) palm crosses. Instruction provided. Transportation to Palm Sunday services available.

Good Friday

Student Volunteers Needed Friday March 29, Stations of the Cross: walk around campus as a group or stop by at Wilson Chapel for personal reflection with prayer guides and stations. Details TBA, Email orsl@skidmore.edu to sign up to help plan or host

Easter

Student Volunteers Needed Contact ORSL for schedule updates or to arrange transportation to local services. On campus celebrations TBD. Email orsl@skidmore.edu to sign up to help plan or host.

For more information or to sign up for updates: email orsl@skidmore.edu