

Ash-Wednesday: The first step on the way of the cross



"Lent is the period in which,
learning to abstain from adoring the shrine of the self,
we come to see beyond the divinity we have made of ourselves
to the divine will for all the world."

John Chittister

Silence: We become present

We read together...Isaiah 55:8-9

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the Lord.*

*"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

We reflect on...

the way of the cross

is the way of God

is the way to life

We confess together...

the way of the cross

is the way of God

is the way to life

The way of the cross | The way of Christ — Philippians 2:5-11

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself: He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity

and took on the status of a slave, became *human*! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

We confess together...

Bread and wine are symbols to remind us of

God's self-giving sacrifice

God's love

God's way

The way of the cross is the way to life

When we share the bread and wine as a reminder of the way

It is an act of trust, that God's way is the way to life

It is a prayer that God's way will become our way

Communion - we become one with the way

Gal 2:19b-20

Ek is saam met Christus gekruisig, en nou is dit nie meer ek wat lewe nie, maar Christus wat in my lewe. Die lewe wat ek nou nog hier lewe, leef ek in die geloof in die Seun van God wat sy liefde vir my bewys het deur sy lewe vir my af te lê.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. (NIV)

We confess together... (x3)

I no longer not I,

But Christ in and through me.

Silence: We reflect on our confession

Ash-cross: We receive the mark of the way

The mark of the cross is a reminder of the way

The ash reminds us that all that will remain for eternity is our love

Not our faith, not our prophetic gifts, not our religious acts — but our love (1 Cor 13)

Blessing