



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Worship
February 17, 6:30 PM

By now you're probably tired of hearing all the Lenten songs on the radio and fighting the Lenten crowds at the Mall. You almost dislike coming to church during Lent because you know the one-season-a-year Christians will be packing the place (not to be heard from again until Good Friday!). It really gets to be too much. We barely finish putting away the Christmas ornaments when Macy's and Wal-Mart begin putting up Lenten displays of Jesus being tempted by Satan. And then there's the incessant playing of hymns everywhere you go:

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

Seriously. If I hear that song in one more elevator or Mall, or if I see one more banner put up by the City, reading, "Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God for he gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love" (Joel 2:13), I may just explode. Lent. Lent. Lent. It's all we see and hear this time of year. In What Universe?



"The History of the World in 5 Acts"

Lenten Message Series
Begins Sunday, February 21

Act One: The Protagonist -- Feb. 21
Creation, Genesis 1-2

Act Two: The Antagonist -- Feb. 28
The Fall, Genesis 3
Kyle Marshall, preaching

Act Three: The Crisis -- March 7
Israel, Isaiah 49

Act Four: The Climax -- March 14
Jesus, The Gospel of Matthew

Act Five: The Resolution -- March 21
The Church, Acts 29

Join us these Sundays in Lent as we explore "The History of the World in 5 Acts" and find Biblical answers to life's most important questions.

Okay. I'm pulling your leg. The truth is, if the world draws our attention away from Jesus at Christmas by flashing shiney trinkets at us, it keeps us from focusing on God during Lent by completely ignoring the season of self-inspection, sacrifice and repentance. I don't blame them. The world is not in the business of following Jesus; the world sells trinkets. You and I, however, we are in the business of following the world's true Lord. And so every once in a while we need to take a long look at ourselves in the mirror, bend the knee, and say, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Lent is that time for us. You can expect no help from Macy's, no support from Wal-Mart. What you can expect is this: the Spirit of the Risen Lord will change your heart, change your mind, change your life -- for his glory and for your salvation as you give yourself to him these 40 days.

See you Sunday -- and on Wednesday night.

Pax Christi,

Randy