

Ash Wednesday



**Holy Eucharist
&
Imposition of Ashes**
February 22, 2023
5:30 p.m.

The service begins in silence.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow 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—²a 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. ¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between 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?'"

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Amen. Amen.**

PSALM 103

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.

³He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;

⁴He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

⁵He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.

⁸The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹He will not always accuse us, *

nor will he keep his anger for ever.

¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *

nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, *

so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

¹²As far as the east is from the west, *

so far has he removed our sins from us.

¹³As a father cares for his children, *

so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

¹⁴For he himself knows whereof we are made; *

he remembers that we are but dust.

¹⁵Our days are like the grass; *

we flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *

and its place shall know it no more.

¹⁷But the merciful goodness of the LORD

endures for ever on those who fear him, *

and his righteousness on children's children;

¹⁸On those who keep his covenant *

and remember his commandments and do them.

¹⁹The LORD has set his throne in heaven, *

and his kingship has dominion over all.

²⁰Bless the LORD, you angels of his,

you mighty ones who do his bidding, *

and hearken to the voice of his word.

²¹Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, *

you ministers of his who do his will.

²²Bless the LORD, all you works of his,

in all places of his dominion; *

bless the LORD, O my soul.

THE SECOND LESSON

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10

²⁰We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to god's people.

People: **Amen. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, ¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Priest: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Amen. Amen.**

THE SERMON

REV. RENEE LIABRAATEN

LENTEN INVITATION

After the Sermon, all stand, and the Priest appointed invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of preparation for new life. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were readied for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled through forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination, prayer, fasting, and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of this preparation, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now come before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

PSALM 51

The following psalm is then said in unison. The congregation may sit during the recitation.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness *

and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, *

and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned *

and done what is evil in your sight.

⁵And so you are justified when you speak *

and upright in your judgment.

⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *

a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *

and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *

wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, *

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

¹⁰Hide your face from my sins *

and blot out all my iniquities.

¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, *

and renew a right spirit within me.

¹²Cast me not away from your presence *

and take not your holy Spirit from me.

¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again *

and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *

and sinners shall return to you.

¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God, *

and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,

O God of my salvation.

¹⁶Open my lips, O Lord, *

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *

but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Priest and People together, you may stand or sit.

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Priest continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Priest, stands and, facing the people, says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires that all may live in the fullness of life, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people the absolution, remission, and forgiveness of all that inhibits life. God pardons and absolves all those who with sincere hearts believe the holy Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we beseech God to grant us true forgiveness and the Holy Spirit, that those things may please God which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to God's sacred eternal joy: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Priest: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Cyprian and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Priest: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Live without fear.

Your Creator has made you holy,
 has always protected you,
and loves you with a power and a presence
 that is stronger than death.

May God's blessing be with you,
 Christ's peace be with you,
and the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
 now and always.

Amen.