



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020



The Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Imposition of Ashes

7:30 AM - Celebrant & Preacher - The Reverend Canon Steven M. Roberts

12:15 PM - Celebrant & Preacher - The Right Reverend Morris K. Thompson, Jr., *Bishop*

6:00 PM - Celebrant & Preacher - The Very Reverend David A. duPlantier, *Dean*

It is the tradition of the Episcopal Church to maintain silence in the worship area so that people may pray. Please help us preserve an atmosphere of quiet reverence before worship begins, remembering to turn pagers and cell phones off; let the music of the opening voluntary quiet your thoughts as you prepare for worship.

The Word of God

THE SILENT PROCESSION OF CLERGY AND OTHER MINISTERS

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

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, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. 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; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather 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. 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?'"

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:8-14 *Benedic, anima mea* (Please join in singing the refrain.)



The Lord re - mem - bers that we are but dust.

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|----|--|----|--|
| 8 | The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness. | 12 | As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us. [<i>Refrain</i>] |
| 9 | He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever. | 13 | As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him. |
| 10 | He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. [<i>Refrain</i>] | 14 | For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust. [<i>Refrain</i>] |
| 11 | For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him. | | |

THE SECOND LESSON ~ 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made himself to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The choir sings

TRACT ~ Psalm 130 *De profundis*

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O LORD, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ~ Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "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. "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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "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. But 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. "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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

THE LENTEN EXHORTATION

After the Sermon, all stand, and the Celebrant or Minister 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 penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and 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 repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

The Celebrant says the following prayer

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 and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Please proceed to the crossing steps where a priest will place ashes on your forehead.

The choir sings

Psalm 51 *Miserere mei, Deus*

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| 1 | Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses. | 10 | Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities. |
| 2 | Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin. | 11 | Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me. |
| 3 | For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me. | 12 | Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me. |
| 4 | Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight. | 13 | Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. |
| 5 | And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment | 14 | I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you. |
| 6 | Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb. | 15 | Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation. |
| 7 | For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly. | 16 | Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. |
| 8 | Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. | 17 | Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings. |
| 9 | Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice. | 18 | The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. |

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

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 Celebrant 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 ABSOLUTION

The Bishop, if present, or the Priest, stands and, facing the people, says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him 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 his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

THE INVITATION TO AND DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All persons are welcome at the Lord's table; to receive Holy Communion or a Blessing. Baptized Christians of all ages and denomination may receive the elements. To receive a blessing rather than the elements, cross your arms over your chest as you kneel at the altar rail. To receive communion please hold out your crossed hands, open palms up, for the bread, and then help guide the chalice to your lips to receive the wine; cross your arms over your chest if you do not wish to receive the wine. Please blot lipstick before drinking from the chalice. You may also allow the chalice minister to dip the bread into the wine and place it on your tongue and it is permissible to receive only the bread if you like.

DURING COMMUNION

Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord, and cast not off thy servants in thy displeasure; for we confess our sins unto thee, and hide not our unrighteousness. For thy mercy's sake deliver us from all our sins.

Words: Psalm 27:10
 Music: Richard Farrant (d. 1581)

Please join in singing

HYMN #693 - Just as I am, without one plea..... Woodworth

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Prayer Book, Page 365/366

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN #142 - Lord, who throughout these forty days.....St. Flavian

THE DISMISSAL

People Thanks be to God.

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Psalm & Tract

From *Gradual Psalms for the RCL*, ed. Bruce E. Ford, Church Publishing Incorporated.

Mass Setting

From *New Plainsong*: David Hurd (b. 1950). Reprinted from *The Hymnal 1982*.

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VESTRY

2020

Alan Brackett (Senior Warden), Laura Brown (Secretary),
Karen Whitfield

2021

John Sibal (Junior Warden), Jethro Celestin, Borden Wallace

2022

Justin Allen, Melissa Montero,
Jennifer O'Brien-Brown (Treasurer)

2023

Les Leathem, Charles Meade, Judson Mitchell

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