



Ash Wednesday

# Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

7:00 pm

## Gathering

The Congregation gathers in silence

<b>Hymn:</b> <i>O Lord, throughout These Forty Days</i>
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## Greeting

P) The Lord be with you.

C) And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

P) Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C) Amen.

## Reading from 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 — <sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful

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army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. <sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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?""

- P) The Word of the Lord
- C) Thanks be to God

**Psalm 51:1-17** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**<sup>4</sup>Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

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<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**<sup>6</sup>You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

**<sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,**

and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**<sup>16</sup>For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a  
burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## Reading from 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

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

P) The Word of the Lord

C) Thanks be to God

**P)** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 6:1-6;16-21

**C)** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>"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. <sup>2</sup>"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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>"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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>6a</sup>"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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19a</sup>"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**P)** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C)** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# Homily

## Invitation to Lent

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.



## Confession of Sin

P) Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Kneel/stand. Brief silence for reflection and self-examination*

P) Most holy and merciful God,

**C) we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P) 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.

**C) Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) We have shut our ears 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.

**C) Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C) Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C) Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.



**C) Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C) Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our false judgments, our uncharitable thought towards our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C) Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C) Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C) Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

**Imposition of Ashes: *“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return”***

*(Self impose or impose with one another.)*

P) Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C) that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P) By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**C) bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P) Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**C) Amen.**

## Sharing the Peace

P) The peace of the Lord be with you always

C) And also with you

## Offering

### Meal

#### Great Thanksgiving

P) The Lord be with you.

C) And also with you.

### Eucharistic Prayer

#### The Lord's Prayer

P) Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C) 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.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

### Distribution

P) Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

C) Have mercy on us.

P) Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

C) Have mercy on us.

P) Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

C) Grant us peace.

C) Amen

## **Blessing**

**P)** May the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C)** Amen.

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

**P)** Merciful God,

**C)** accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Benediction**

**P)** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

<b>Sending Hymn:</b> <i>God Loved the World</i>
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**C)** Amen.

## **Dismissal**

**P)** Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C)** Thanks be to God.

