



# ASH WEDNESDAY

Noon

*Remember you are but dust,  
And to dust you shall return*

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## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*All stand as the clergy enter.*

Priest Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully. *Silence is kept.*

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

*The prophet pictures the day of the Lord as a time of judgment and darkness, but he holds out the hope of mercy if the people will repent.*

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?’”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 103:8–14 *Benedic, anima mea***

*A hymn of thanksgiving for healing forgiveness and for all the Lord's acts of compassion and justice.*



- 8 The Lord is full of com- | passion and | mercy,\*  
slow to anger and | of great | kindness.
- 9 **He will not | always ac- | cuse us,\***  
**nor will he keep his | anger for | ever.**
- 10 He has not dealt with us ac- | cording | to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according | to our | wickedness.
- 11 **For as the heavens are | high a- | bove the earth,\***  
**so is his mercy great upon | those who fear him.**
- 12 As far as the | east is | from the west, \*  
so far has he re- | moved our | sins from us.
- 13 **As a father | cares for his | children,\***  
**so does the Lord care for | those who | fear him.**
- 14 For he himself knows where- | of we | are made; \*  
he remembers | that we | are but dust.

## **2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10**

*Paul urges the new disciples to be reconciled to God in this time of deliverance, and he reminds them of all the hardships he has patiently endured for their sake and for the gospel. The disciples' task is to respond to God's reconciling work in Christ who has taken upon himself their sinfulness so that they might have a right relationship with God. In order that he might offer his service without presenting any personal obstacles, Paul has accepted many of the paradoxes that were part of Jesus' own ministry. Although himself poor, he brings true riches to many.*

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

For our sake he made him 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn 142** Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*St. Flavian*

## **Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21**

*Jesus describes genuine charity, prayer, and fasting. For religious people the temptation is always strong to want to be recognized as full of piety more than to want honestly to be seeking God and the good of others. Praise and rewards for an outward show of religion all pass away. The real treasure is found in our relationship with God.*

Priest 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.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

**People Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

*After the sermon a brief silence is kept.*

The Rev. Laurel Coote

## A Call to a Holy Lent

Priest In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People Amen.**

Priest Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**People and also with you.**

Priest Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

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.

**People Holy God, holy and strong,  
holiness and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

*Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.*

Priest 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 ashes are imposed with the following words*

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

## Psalm 51 *Miserere mei, Deus*



- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving- | kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my | offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my | wickedness \*  
and cleanse | me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my trans- | gressions, \*  
and my sin is ever | before me.
- 4 Against you only have I | sinned \*  
and done what is e- | vil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you | speak \*  
and upright in | your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth, \*  
a sinner from | my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep with- | in me, \*  
and will make me understand wis- | dom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall | be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and | gladness, \*  
that the
- 10 Hide your face from my | sins \*  
and blot out all my | iniquities.

- 11 Create in me a clean | heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit | within me.
- 12 **Cast me not away from your | presence \***  
**and take not your holy Spir- | it from me.**
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving | help again \*  
and sustain me with your bounti- | ful Spirit.
- 14 **I shall teach your ways to the | wicked, \***  
**and sinners shall | return to you.**
- 15 Deliver me from | death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my | salvation.
- 16 **Open my | lips, O Lord, \***  
**and my mouth shall | proclaim your praise.**
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered | sacrifice; \*  
but you take no delight in | burnt-offerings.
- 18 **The sacrifice of God is a troubled | spirit; \***  
**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you | will not despise.**

## **Self-examination and Confession**

*A minister now leads a corporate examination of conscience:*

Leader Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,

**People have mercy upon us.**

Leader God the Son,

**People have mercy upon us.**

Leader God the Holy Spirit,

**People have mercy upon us.**

Leader Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,

**People have mercy upon us.**

Leader From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;  
from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent,

**People good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart  
and contempt for your word and your laws,

**People good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader From sins of body and mind;  
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

**People good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;  
in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,

**People good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

**People good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,

**People good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; and by your precious death  
and burial,

**People good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**People good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our  
deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives  
according to your holy word.

**People** **Holy God, holy and strong,**  
**holy and immortal,**  
**have mercy upon us.**

*Silence is kept.*

Leader Make our hearts clean, O God;  
**People and renew a right spirit within us.**

**People Father eternal, giver of light and grace,**  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbor,  
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.

We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us.

We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;

and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

### **The Peace** *All stand.*

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

*The people exchange the peace with one another.*

## The Offertory

Priest Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,  
an offering and sacrifice to God.

**Offering Voluntary** Ah, Lord, Pity Me, A Poor Sinner

*Dietrich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer A*

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 God thanks and praise.**

Priest It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; you bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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:

## Sanctus S125

From *A Community Mass; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Ho - san-na in the high-est.

*The people stand or kneel.*

Priest

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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.”

Priest

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 all for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

- Priest Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**People Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**
- Priest We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**
- And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
- People 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, for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem S169 My flesh is food indeed

Ray W. Urwin (b. 1950)

Cantor or Choir

My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -

1 All 2 Cantor or Choir

deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my

All

flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. My

All

flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

Priest The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### ALL ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE THE HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set is the Lord's. Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey, you are welcome to receive the Bread made holy.

When directed by the usher, come forward to the communion station.  
Please keep your mask on with your hands extended to receive the Host.

The bread is received in the open palm.

Once you have moved away from the Minister,  
you may remove one side of your mask, consume the Host, and replace your mask.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing may indicate this by  
crossing their arms over their chest.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer.

## **The Post-Communion Prayer** *All Stand.*

Priest Let us pray.

**People** Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son 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 Lord. Amen.

## **The Blessing**

Priest May God, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.

**People** Amen.

Priest May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds.

**People** Amen.

Priest May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

**People** Amen.

Priest And the blessing of God almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be among you and remain with you always.

**People** Amen.

**Recessional Hymn 149** Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

*Old 124<sup>th</sup>*

## **The Dismissal**

Priest Go in the peace of Christ.

**People** Thanks be to God.

*The people depart in silence*



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