



ST. DUNSTAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY

*Thank you for joining us for streaming worship at this time.
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Greeting

The Celebrant begins the liturgy with the Salutation and the Collect of the day.

Priest **I**n the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

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

All **and also with you.**

Priest **B**rothers 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.

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

The Collect

The Celebrant introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

Priest Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept.

Priest **H**oly 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.

All **Amen.**

Readings

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?’”

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:8-14 *Benedic, anima mea*

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

9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above 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 removed 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 whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

This acclamation may herald the Gospel reading

Priest **P**raise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

cf Psalm 95.3, 8

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Priest Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

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,

All have mercy upon us.

Leader God the Son,

All have mercy upon us.

Leader God the Holy Spirit,

All have mercy upon us.

Leader Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,

All 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,

All good Lord, deliver us.

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

All good Lord, deliver us.

Leader From sins of body and mind;

from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

All 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,

All good Lord, deliver us.

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

All 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,

All good Lord, deliver us.

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

All good Lord, deliver us.

Leader By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

All 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.

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

Silence is kept.

Leader **M**ake our hearts clean, O God;
All and renew a right spirit within us.

All **F**ather 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 Imposition of Ashes

Priest Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to receive these ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior.

All Amen.

The celebrant and those present receive the imposition of ashes, the celebrant first receiving the imposition from another minister. At this time, all people may self-impose ashes, or impose ashes upon those in their immediate households. At the imposition the minister says to each person:

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

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

or the ashes may be imposed without the use of words.

Psalm 51

- 1 **H**ave mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 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.
- 5 Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 6 You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- 17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

19 then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Priest **T**he Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus
Christ, our Saviour.

All Amen.

The Peace

Priest Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace. *Romans 5.1,2*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
The Lord's Prayer is said.

**All 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.**

Responsory

Priest **T**his is love, not that we loved God,
All **but that he loved us and sent his Son.**

Priest He is the sacrifice for our sins,
All **that we might live through him.**

Priest If God loves us so much
All **we ought to love one another.**

Priest If we love one another
All **God lives in us.**

cf 1 John 4.12

The Blessing

Priest **M**ay God, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.
All **Amen.**

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

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

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

The Dismissal

Priest Go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Today's Ash Wednesday Liturgy is taken from the Church of England, Common Worship.



WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

WHAT WE ARE FOR

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

WHAT WE ARE AGAINST

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

WHAT WE VALUE

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

WELCOME!

Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomew's, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.