

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People's Respondent **And also with you.**
Presider 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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.
³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
 a day acceptable to the LORD?
 6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the thongs of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?
 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
 when you see the naked, to cover them,
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
 8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator^[a] shall go before you,
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
 9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
 If you remove the yoke from among you,
 the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
 10 if you offer your food to the hungry
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
 then your light shall rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be like the noonday.
 11 The LORD will guide you continually,
 and satisfy your needs in parched places,
 and make your bones strong;
 and you shall be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water,
 whose waters never fail.
 12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
 you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
 you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
 the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
Respondent ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 103

to be prayed responsively

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
 and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
²***Bless the LORD, O my soul,
 and do not forget all God's benefits —***
³who forgives all your iniquity,
 who heals all your diseases,

**⁴who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**
⁵who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
**⁶The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
**⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
⁹God will not always accuse,
nor will the Holy One be angry forever.
**¹⁰God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is the LORD's steadfast love toward those who fear him;
**¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far the Holy One removed our transgressions from us.**
¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.
**¹⁴For God knows how we were made,
and remembers that we are dust.**
¹⁵As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
**¹⁶for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.**
¹⁷But the steadfast love of God is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear the LORD,
and God's righteousness to children's children,
**¹⁸to those who keep God's covenant
and remember to do the Holy One's commandments.**
¹⁹The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his reign is over all.
**²⁰Bless the LORD, O you angels,
you mighty ones who do God's bidding,
obedient to his spoken word.**
²¹Bless the LORD, all the heavenly host,
all ministers who do God's will.
**²²Bless the LORD, all creation,
in all places of God's dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

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.
 Respondent ***Thanks be to God.***

Sequence Hymn
Eternal Lord of Love

Hymnal 149

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Gospeller

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

Respondent

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.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
Respondent ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Sermon

Invitation to a Holy Lent

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 keep silence before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time

Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

Worshippers are invited to take into their hands the ashes they have received.



The Presider then says

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.

Online worshippers desiring to do so may sprinkle the ashes over their heads, or mark their foreheads, or hands, saying,

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

Silence is then kept for a time

Psalm 51 *to be prayed responsively by the Presider and the People's Respondent*
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 transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.**

**4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil 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 within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom 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 body you have broken may rejoice.

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 Spirit from me.**

13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful 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.



Litany of Penitence

The Presider and the People's Respondent

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.***

Presider 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.

Respondent ***Have mercy on us, Lord.***

Presider 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.

Respondent ***Have mercy on us, Lord.***

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

Respondent ***We confess to you, Lord.***

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

Respondent ***We confess to you, Lord.***

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

Respondent ***We confess to you, Lord.***

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

Respondent ***We confess to you, Lord.***

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

Respondent ***We confess to you, Lord.***

Presider 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,

Respondent **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

Respondent **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

Respondent **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

Respondent **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Presider Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

Respondent **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Presider By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

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

Presider Almighty God, 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

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Respondent **And also with you.**

Blessing and Dismissal

A priest blesses the people.

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

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

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

And the blessing of God Almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

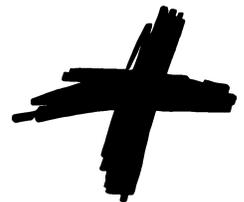
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Jesus, holy and strong, by your fasting and temptation teach us self-denial; control and discipline us, that we may learn to obey.

God of the desert, as we follow Jesus into the unknown, may we recognize the tempter when he comes; let it be your bread we eat, your world we serve, and you alone we worship.



Go with us on our Lenten journey so, that when we arrive at Easter Day, we are once more ready to celebrate our passage with Christ from death to life, from despair to hope; through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

from *The New Zealand Prayer Book*. HarperCollins, 1997 p.591

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Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ,
and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world,
guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.

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