

# Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?  
pwd=eig94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Z](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Z)

[Z09](#)

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: **782611**

## Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **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 58:1-9a

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.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>“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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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<sup>[a]</sup> 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.

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

## **Psalm 103**

1 Bless 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 —***  
3 who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
4 ***who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,***  
5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
6 ***The LORD works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.***  
7 He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.  
8 ***The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.***  
9 God will not always accuse,  
nor will the Holy One be angry forever.  
10 ***God does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.***  
11 For 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.***

<sup>13</sup>As 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.***

<sup>15</sup>As 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.***

<sup>17</sup>But 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.***

<sup>19</sup>The 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.***

<sup>21</sup>Bless 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

James 1:19-27

A reading from the letter of James

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved:<sup>[a]</sup> let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves<sup>[b]</sup> in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

## Third Reading

Matthew 16:21-27

A Reading from Matthew

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup>"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

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

## Sermon

Marion VanLoo

### 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

*Those who have received a packet of ashes are invited to take them into their hands.*

*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.**



*Those present and desiring to have ashes imposed are then invited to the Altar.*

*Those people worshipping online, and desiring to do so, may then sprinkle their 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

*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**

*Presider and People*

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.

*People* **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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*People* ***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,

*People* ***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,

*People* ***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

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

*People* ***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

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

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

*Presider* Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

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

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

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

*Presider* 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.***

## **Hymn**

*Lord, who throughout these forty days*

## **Hymnal 142**

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,  
 2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,  
 3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,  
 4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,  
 5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,

1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.  
 2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.  
 3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.  
 4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.  
 5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

## 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.**

+++++



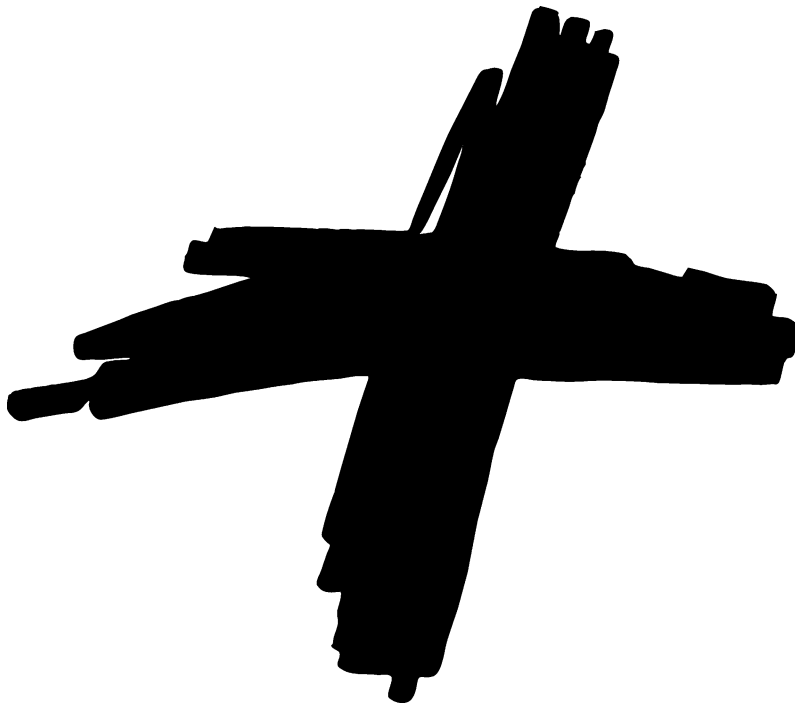
**Service text** from riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2019 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

**Collects** at the end of the Litany from *The New Zealand Prayer Book*. HarperCollins, 1997 p.591

+++++

## **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.



St Barnabas Episcopal Church  
20500 W Old US-12  
Chelsea MI 48118  
[stbarnabaschelsea.org](http://stbarnabaschelsea.org)