

Ash Wednesday



*You are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

GENESIS 3:19

SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST  
FEBRUARY 17, 2021  
6:00 PM

**Processional Hymn**

*“Forty Days And Forty Nights”*

**Hymnal 150**

*The **Celebrant** begins the liturgy, saying,*

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, forever and ever. *Amen.*

***The Congregation is seated for the readings***

## The First Reading

The Reader says, “*A Lesson from the Book of Joel.*”

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?' Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (NRSV)

After the Reading, the **Reader** says, "The Word of the Lord."  
People: ***Thanks be to God.***

### **The Psalm**

The **Reader** says, "A Reading from the Psalms"

The LORD, IS full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

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

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

For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD cares for those who fear him.

For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust. Psalm 103: 8-14

After the Reading, the **Reader** says, The Word of the Lord.  
People: ***Thanks be to God.***

## The Epistle

### The Reader says

“A Lesson from St. Paul’s 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Church in Corinth.”

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. 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.

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 NRSV

After the Reading, the **Reader** says, *The Word of the Lord.*

People:     ***Thanks be to God.***

### Sequence Hymn

*“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” (vs. 1,2)*

**Hymnal 142**

## The Gospel

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

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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. Matthew 6:1-6,16-21 NRSV

*After the Gospel is read:*

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord

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

### Sequence Hymn

*“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” (vs. 3,4,5) Hymnal 142*

**The Celebrant May Offer a Brief Reflection**

## **The Bidding (BCP 264)**

*All stand, as they are able,*

*The **Celebrant** invites the People to the observance of a holy Lent, saying*

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 kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

**Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling as they are able, or standing.**

### **Litany of Penitence**

The **Celebrant** and *People* together, all kneeling say,

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.

*The Celebrant continues,*

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.

*Have mercy on us, Lord.*

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.

*Have mercy on us, Lord.*

We confess to you, Lord,

*all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,*

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

*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,*

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

*Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;  
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.  
Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
That we may show forth your glory in the world.*

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,  
*Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.*

...

*The **Celebrant**, stands and, facing the people, says*

Almighty God, the 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 is then exchanged, followed by a brief reflective silence.*

*The Celebrant may Offer Thoughts or Comments*

## **The Holy Communion**

Eucharistic Prayer D, BCP 372

The people remain standing.

The Celebrant sings,

**The Lord be with you.**

People *And also with you.*

**Celebrant** Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

**Celebrant** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*The people standing or kneeling as they are able, the Celebrant continues*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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.*"

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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.*"

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People, say:*

We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, *sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people*, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who minister in your Church.  
Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Christopher, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

*The Celebrant continues,*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant,*  
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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*  
A period of silence is kept.

The **Celebrant** sings,  
*Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;*

The People sing,

*Therefore let us keep the feast.*

The **Celebrant** says,

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take the bread in remembrance  
that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with  
thanksgiving.

*The Bread is given to the communicants with these words;*

**The Body, the bread of heaven.**  
*Amen.*

After Communion, the **Celebrant** says

**Let us pray.**

**Celebrant and People**

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The **Celebrant** blesses the people.

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

*People*      Thanks be to God.

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