

**Ash Wednesday,
February 22, 2023
St. John's
7:00am and 12:05pm**



People Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.
His mercy endureth forever. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant 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: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A Reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

¹Blow 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—

²a 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.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³rend 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.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather 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.
¹⁷Between 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

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
²**Bless the LORD, O my soul, ***
and forget not all his benefits.
³He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
⁴**He redeems your life from the grave ***
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
⁵He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
⁶**The LORD executes righteousness ***
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
⁷He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
⁸**The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, ***
slow to anger and of great kindness.
⁹He 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.
¹¹For 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.
¹³As 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.**

¹⁵Our days are like the grass; *
we flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶**When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
and its place shall know it no more.**

¹⁷But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear him, *
and his righteousness on children's children;

¹⁸**On those who keep his covenant *
and remember his commandments and do them.**

¹⁹The LORD has set his throne in heaven, *
and his kingship has dominion over all.

²⁰**Bless the LORD, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding, *
and hearken to the voice of his word.**

²¹Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, *
you ministers of his who do his will.

²²**Bless the LORD, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion; *
bless the LORD, O my soul.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] ¹⁴“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.

²⁴“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵⁴“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹⁴“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

LENTEN INVITATION

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.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

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.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PSALM 51

- 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

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.

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.

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.**

PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Who dost bid thy 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 thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 336)

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

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **grant us thy peace.**

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**