

ASH WEDNESDAY



Meménto, homo, quia pulvis es, et in púlvarem revertéris

Holy Trinity Chapel

Ash Wednesday is the first day Lent and marks the beginning of the six-and-a-half-week penitential season that lasts from now until Easter. The service we join in today took shape between the 8th and 10th centuries. The Church believed in outwardly proving its penance by imposing ashes—the symbol of our sins—on the foreheads of the clergy and people.

Opening Declaration & Prayer

Bless the Lord Who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

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. In this manner, 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; by alms-giving; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

And, to make a right beginning, let us now pray for grace, that we may faithfully keep this Lent. and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

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, humbly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our wickedness, may obtain from You, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn**

“Ashes”

Vocals

We rise a - gain from ash - es from the
 We of - fer you our fail - ures, we
 Then rise a - gain from ash - es, let
 Thanks be to the Fa - ther who
 good we've failed to do. We rise a - gain from
 of - fer you at - tempts; the gifts not ful - ly
 heal - ing come to pain; though spring has turned to
 made us - like Him - self; Thanks be to his
 ash - es to cre - ate our - selves a - new. If -
 giv - en, the dreams not ful - ly dreamt. Give our
 win - ter, and sun - shine turned to rain. the
 Son - who saved us by his death;
 all our world is ash - es, then must our lives be true, an
 stum - bl - ings di - rec - tion, give our vi - sions wid - er view; an
 rain we'll use for grow - ing, and cre - ate the world a - new, from an
 Thanks be to the Spir - it who cre - ates the world a - new from an
 of - fer - ing of ash - es,
 of - fer - ing of ash - es,
 of - fer - ing of ash - es, an off - er - ing to You.
 off - er - ing of ash - es,

The Old Testament

A reading from the Book of Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on My holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains, a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come. "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD. Do not make Your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" Then the LORD will be jealous for His land and take pity on His people.

The LORD will reply to them: "I am sending you grain, new wine and oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.

(Joel 2:1-2, 12-19)

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

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 care for those who fear Him.

For He Himself knows whereof we are made;
He remembers that we are but dust.

The merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear Him,
And His righteousness on children's children;

On those who keep His covenant
And remember His commandments and do them.

(Psalm 103:8-14, 17-18)

* **The Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

The New Testament

A reading from the Book of 2nd Corinthians.

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him Who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For He says, "In the time of My favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people. Therefore come out from them and be separate," says the Lord. "Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

(2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2; 16b-7:1)

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

* **The Gospel**

The Holy Gospel of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, Who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, Who is unseen. Then your Father, Who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, Who is unseen; and your Father, Who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves

break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, 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)

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

The Sermon

Silent Reflection

Prayer over the Ashes

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

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**

***“Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”***

Psalm 51 *Miserere mei, Deus*

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your loving-kindness;
in Your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through
from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against You only have I sinned
and done what is evil in Your sight.**

And so You are justified when You speak
and upright in Your judgment.

**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

For behold,
You look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**Purge me from my sin,
and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**Hide Your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

**Cast me not away from Your presence
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

Give me the joy of Your saving help again
and sustain me with Your bountiful Spirit.

**Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing
of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.**

Litany of Penance

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.

Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against You.

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.

For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment; for all lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors.

We confess to You, Lord.

For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people, and our failure to give of ourselves in love.

We confess to You, Lord.

For our self-indulgent ways, our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

For our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share with others the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

For our dishonesty in daily life and work, and our ingratitude for Your gifts, and our failure to heed Your call.

We confess to You, Lord.

For our blindness to the need and suffering of those around us, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

We confess to You, Lord.

For our wastefulness and misuse of Your creation, and our lack of concern for those who follow us.

We confess to You, Lord.

For our negligence in prayer and worship; for our presumption and disregard for Your means of grace.

We confess to You, Lord.

For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of heaven.

We confess to You, 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.

Show favor to Your people, O Lord, who turn to You in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For You are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare us when we

deserve punishment, and at the time of wrath You shower us with Your mercy.

Save Your people, good Lord, and save us; in the multitude of Your mercies, look upon us and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of Your blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

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 commandment to His ministers to declare to His people, being penitent, the assurance of the absolution of their sins. For He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe His Holy Gospel.

Our heavenly Father, Who of His great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to Him, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

God says to us through the Prophet Isaiah...

“I have swept away your sins like the morning mists. I have scattered your offences like the clouds. I have paid the price to set you free.”

Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done this wondrous thing!

Isaiah 44:22-23a (NLT)

* Closing Hymn

“Be Unto Your Name”

Vocals



We are a mom - ent; You are for - ev - er.
We are the bro - ken; You are the heal - er.

5



Lord of the a - ges, God be - fore time. We are a
Je - sus re - deem - er might - y to save. You are the

10



va - por; You are e - ter - nal. Love ev - er - las - ting, reign - ing on
love song we'll sing for - ev - er, bow - ing be - fore You, bless - ing Your

16



High - . Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y; Worth - y
Name - .

23



is the Lamb Who was slain; High - est prais - es, hon - or and glo -

30



be un - to Your Name - Be un - to Your Name -

38 [Last Time Only]



We are a mom - ent; You are for - ev - er - - -

*** Benediction**

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of love of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain upon you this day and always.

Amen!

*** Dismissal**

Go in peace in the love and mercy of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

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