

Ash Wednesday | St. Paul's Church | February 22, 2023

Prelude

Jesus, the very thought of Thee (7PM)

The liturgy of Ash Wednesday is a holding place for our entrance into Lent each year. In it we find some silence and peace, and a place to listen for the voice of God, a voice that tells us we are beloved. This voice also reminds us of our brokenness, our mortality, our inevitable foibles, and our need for a relationship with the divine; a relationship that we invest in in a particular way in the season of Lent. We invite you to take a deep breath and settle into this hour of humility, vulnerability, reflection, and, ultimately, very honest love.

We begin in silence.

Celebrant
People

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins
God's mercy endures for ever.

Trisagian

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us. (x3)

Celebrant
People
Celebrant

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have made and forgiven 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.**

Please be seated for the readings

A Reading from the book of Joel (2:1-2,12-17)

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 God 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?'"

Hear what the spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103: 8-14, *We will read the psalm responsively by whole verse*

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

**9 He 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.

**11 For 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.

**13 As 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.

A reading from the 2nd letter to the 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.

Hear what the spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn, #143 (Blue Hymnal), "The glory of these forty days" (7PM)

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (6:1-6,16-21)

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Becky Binns

Exhortation (Invitation to Lent)

BCP 264

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.

A time of kneeling in silence is held as we each find our way into this invitation

Prayer over the Ashes

BCP 265

Celebrant: Let us pray

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

Please come forward in single file to receive ashes. Once you have received ashes, you may return to your seat and either kneel or sit in meditation.

Psalm 51

Psalm 51 is chanted or read. You may follow along on page 266 of the Book of Common Prayer, or simply listen.

Litany of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling (or sitting)

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.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Offertory

There is a balm in Gilead (7PM)

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

Priest God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus "Holy, holy, holy Lord" Said (12PM) or Sung (7PM) by all.

12PM

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.

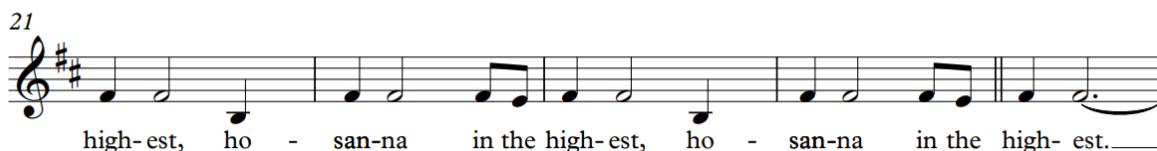
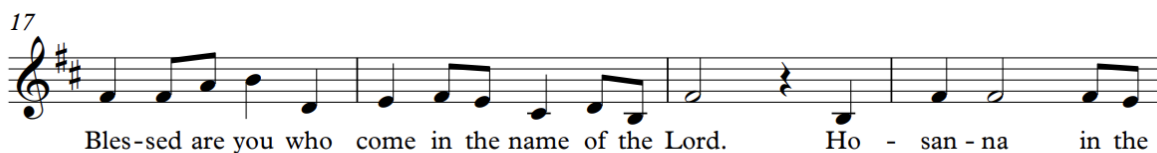
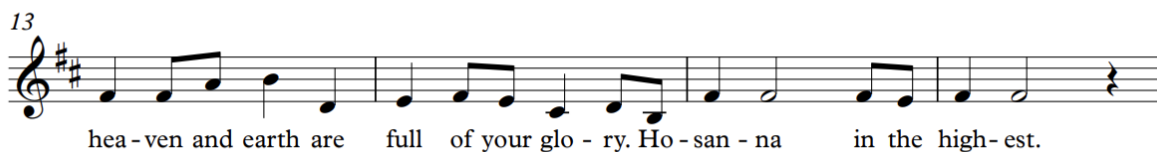
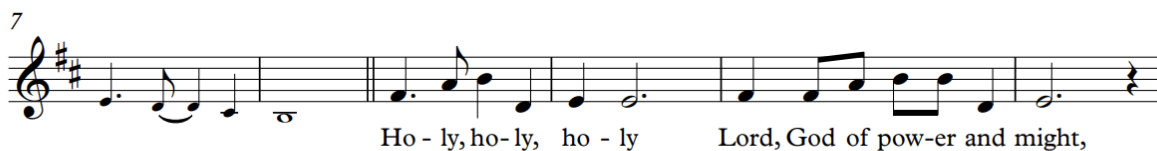
Hosanna in the highest.

7PM

Sanctus

Kelvyn Koning

Morose ♩ = 90



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Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker and of all. Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ 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 Jesus 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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 our daily bread.

And Forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

and deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the

glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. **Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. **Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. **Grant us your peace.**

The Distribution of Communion

All are welcome at Christ's table. If you need a Gluten-free wafer, just let the clergy know when you go up to receive. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Chant, "Jesus, remember me", Taizé (7PM)

Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Blessing

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always accompanied you, and loves you as a parent. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen.**

You are invited to sit quietly for as long as you would like and then leave then leave in silence.

Church in Lent and Holy Week

Lenten Sundays	8AM Rite I Holy Eucharist 10AM Rite II Holy Eucharist 4:30PM Intergenerational Wild Hope Program and Potluck*
Lenten Tuesdays	6:00PM Online Intergenerational Wild Hope Program* *https://www.stpaulsnatick.org/lent-2023-wild-hope/
4/2 Palm Sunday	8AM & 10AM Liturgy of the Palms and the Passion Narrative
4/6 Maundy Thursday	7PM Footwashing, Eucharist, Altar Stripping
4/7 Good Friday	12PM Good Friday Service 2PM Stations of the Cross Hike
4/8 Holy Saturday	7PM Easter Vigil
4/9 Easter Sunday	9AM & 11AM Easter Eucharist! 10AM Easter Egg Hunt!