

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2024

A blessing for Ash Wednesday

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—

did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made

and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

Jan Richardson

from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*

WELCOME

Processional Hymn: 702 Lead us heavenly Father, lead us

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

INTRODUCTION

THE COLLECT

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness

may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING 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 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?"'

At the end of the Reading
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn: 116 Be thou my guardian and my guide

Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call;
let not my slippery footsteps slide,
and hold me lest I fall.

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
thou quickener of the dead.

And if I tempted am to sin,
and outward things are strong,
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
and save my soul from wrong.

Still let me ever watch and pray,
and feel that I am frail;
that if the tempter cross my way,
yet he may not prevail.

Please stand for the Gospel Procession.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Beware of practising 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 forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

‘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.

At the end of the Gospel Reading

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

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

God the Father,
Have mercy on us.

God the Son,
Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
Have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief;
From pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
From envy, hatred and malice;
And from all evil intent.
Good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money,
From hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws.
Good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of the body and mind,
and from the deceits of the world,
the flesh and the devil.
Good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow;
In all times of joy;
In the hour of death,
And at the day of judgement
Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
By your birth, childhood and obedience;
By your baptism, fasting and temptation.
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work,
By your mighty acts of power,
And by your preaching of the Kingdom.
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial, by your cross and passion;
And by your precious death and burial.
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection;
By your glorious ascension;
And by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
Good Lord, deliver us.

Give us true repentance,
Forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
And our deliberate sins.
And grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
To amend our lives according to your holy word.

**Holy God,
Holy and strong,
Holy and Immortal,
Have mercy upon us.**

Silence is kept.

Make our hearts clean, O God;
And renew a right spirit within us.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love and marred you image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Dear friends in Christ,
I invite you to receive these ashes
as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep the season of Lent.

God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth.
Grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence
and a symbol of our mortality;
for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life
In Jesus Christ our saviour. **Amen.**
Psalm 51 sung as ashes are imposed

The president and the people receive the imposition of the ashes
God our Father, the strength of all who put their trust in you,

mercifully accept our prayers;
and because, in our weakness,
we can do nothing good without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in keeping your commandments we may please you,
both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn: 45 I Just as I am

Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:

because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Merciful Father, turn us from sin to faithfulness
and from disobedience to love,
and prepare us to celebrate the death
and resurrection of Christ our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns, now and forever. **Amen**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.
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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup
We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

THE AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

THE RECEIVING OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.
We do not presume to come
to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much
as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh
of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,**

and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, you have given your Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and an example of Godly life.

Give us grace that we may thankfully receive these holy gifts, and daily endeavour to walk in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Hymn: 594 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice, who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then you shall better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow, calm your fears.
Be still, my soul: for Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

This is love, not that we loved God
but that he loved us and sent his Son.
He is the sacrifice for our sins
that we might live through him
If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another
If we love one another
God lives in us.

God the Father give you a contrite heart
God the Son heal you by his wounds.
God the Holy Spirit speak to you words of pardon and peace.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father; the Son and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen