



## *St. Thomas' Episcopal Church*

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Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m. in the church library  
Children's Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. in Cooper Hall  
Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.

# **The Ash Wednesday Liturgy**

March 2, 2020

*Please observe silence before the service.*

## **The Holy Eucharist**

### **Silent Procession**

### **The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people:* The Lord be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

*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.***

*The people sit.*

## **The Word of God**

### **The First Lesson Joel 2:1-2; 12-17**

*Lector* A reading 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?'

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 103** (*read responsively by half verse*)

- <sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
**and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.**
- <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
**and forget not all his benefits.**
- <sup>3</sup> He forgives all your sins \*  
**and heals all your infirmities;**
- <sup>4</sup> He redeems your life from the grave \*  
**and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**
- <sup>5</sup> He satisfies you with good things, \*  
**and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**

- <sup>6</sup> The LORD executes righteousness \*  
**and judgment for all who are oppressed.**
- <sup>7</sup> He made his ways known to Moses \*  
**and his works to the children of Israel.]**
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**
- <sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse us, \*  
**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**
- <sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**
- <sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
**so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**
- <sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, \*  
**so far has he removed our sins from us.**
- <sup>13</sup> As a father cares for his children, \*  
**so does the LORD care for those who fear him.**
- <sup>14</sup> For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
**he remembers that we are but dust.**
- <sup>15</sup> [Our days are like the grass; \*  
**we flourish like a flower of the field;**
- <sup>16</sup> When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
**and its place shall know it no more.**
- <sup>17</sup> But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who  
fear him, \*  
**and his righteousness on children's children;**
- <sup>18</sup> On those who keep his covenant \*  
**and remember his commandments and do them.**
- <sup>19</sup> The LORD has set his throne in heaven, \*  
**and his kingship has dominion over all.**
- <sup>20</sup> Bless the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, \*  
**and hearken to the voice of his word.**
- <sup>21</sup> Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, \*  
**you ministers of his who do his will.**
- <sup>22</sup> Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; \*  
**bless the LORD, O my soul.]**

**The Epistle 2 Corinthians 5:20b-16:10**

*Lector* A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

*The congregation may stand.*

### **143 Sequence Hymn**

### ***The glory of these forty days***

Erhault uns, Herr

### **The Holy Gospel** Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

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

*People* **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."

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **The Sermon**

*After the Sermon, all stand, and 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.*

*If ashes are to be imposed, the Celebrant says the following prayer*

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.**

*The ashes are imposed with the following words*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

**Psalm 51** *(in unison)*

- 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**

*The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling*

**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 Bishop, if present, or the Priest, 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**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People And also with you.*** *(Please stay in your pew.)*

## **The Holy Communion**

**The Offertory Anthem**

*Ashes*

Conroy

*(Please place your offering in the plate in the narthex as you enter or exit. During the anthem, the altar will be prepared for the Holy Communion.)*

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

***Eucharistic Prayer D***

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says:*

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 sing,

*Celebrant and People*

**WLP 858 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, Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel. Then 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*

***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. And grant that we may find our inheritance with 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.**

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 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.*

## S164 Fraction Anthem

Schubert

***Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:  
give us your peace, give us your peace.***

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:*

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

*Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table.*

## Post Communion Prayer

*After Communion, all kneel and the Celebrant says:*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**

**Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.*

## 141 Hymn

***Wilt thou forgive that sin, where I begun***

So giebst du nun

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them*

***People Thanks be to God.***

## The Ministers of the Liturgy

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Jim Horton

**Organist/choir director:** Tom Parker

**Lector:** Jane Hall

**Acolyte:**

**Altar Guild:** Kristy Copeland, Lucy Spruill

**Hostesses:** Lucy Horton, Tra Perry, Briley Rascoe

**Counters:**

**Ushers:** Joe Rhea, Chip Warren

**Eucharistic Minister:**

## Announcements

The choir will meet for rehearsal following tonight's Ash Wednesday service.

Lenten Studies will begin next week on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Parrish Hall. We will have soup, sandwiches, and a discussion of the lectionary readings from that day. We need volunteers to help with the meal preparations. Signup sheets are available in the Narthex. We look forward to seeing everyone and we will continue with safety protocols.