

Ash Wednesday



ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

ASHES

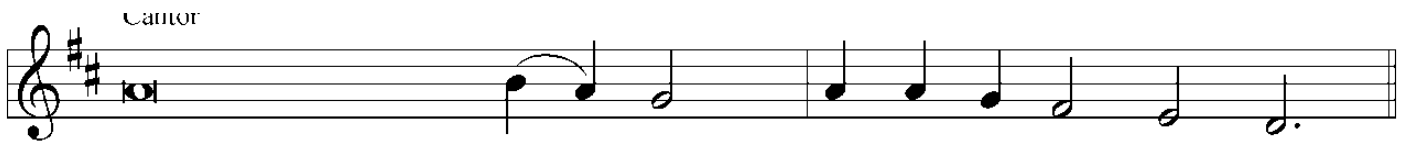
On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

PRELUDE

"JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS"

SMITH

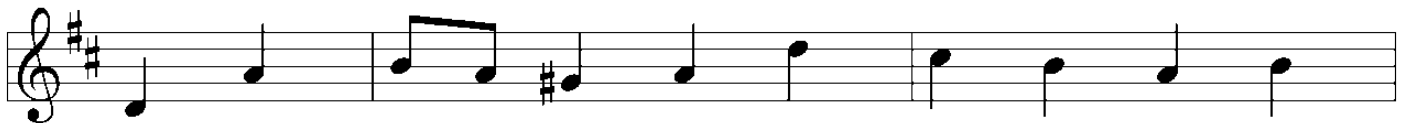
Stand



1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
 2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.



Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the fee - ble



e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
 child your grace has made. Now make us grow and



sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort; come to stay.

GREETING

P Behold, now is the acceptable time;

C **now is the day of salvation.**

P The grace, mercy and peace of God be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE EVENING

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C **Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON. Joel 2:1-2, 12-13

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—
² 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.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ 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.

After the reading:

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM. Psalm 51

A Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
 according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
C ² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**
A ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
C ⁴ **Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
 so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**
A ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.
C ⁶ **You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my
 secret heart.**
A ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than
 snow.
C ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**
A ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
C ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**
A ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit
 from me.
C ¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

- A ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
- C ¹⁴ **Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**
- A ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- C ¹⁶ **For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**
- A ¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- C ¹⁸ **Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,**
- A ¹⁹ then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

THE SECOND LESSON. 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

After the reading:

- R The Word of the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.
 C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"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.

²"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.

⁵“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.

¹⁶“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.

¹⁹“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.”

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON

PASTOR AARON LAYNE

SPECIAL MUSIC

“CANTICLE OF HOPE”

HALLQUIST

ADULT CHOIR

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most holy and merciful God,

C **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P 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.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P We have shut our ears 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.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

- P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
C Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.
C Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.
C Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.
C Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
C Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.
- Sit

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The custom of Christians putting ashes on their foreheads to signify their penitence relates to the Old Testament custom of using ashes to indicate sorrow and mourning.

- P Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
When all have received ashes, the minister continues

Stand

- P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
C that we may show forth your glory in the world.
- P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
C bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.
- P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
C Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

- A Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

- A You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Hear us, O God.
C Your mercy is great.
- A You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home. Hear us, O God.
C Your mercy is great.

A You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war (*regions in conflict may be named*). Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray for caregivers and people who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for those who served you in the church. Bring us with all the saints into everlasting joy. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and remember...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

A Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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**

DISTRIBUTION

P: The Body of Christ given for you.

Congregation: Amen.

(take the bread)

P: The Blood of Christ given for you.

Congregation: Amen.

(drink the cup)

P And now may the body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and His most holy and precious blood, strengthen you and preserve you and keep you to true faith unto life everlasting. May we depart in peace and may the Lord be with you.

C **Amen**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

P May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face smile upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance on you, and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit

C **Amen**



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.

till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Worship God, Serve Others, Follow Jesus, and Make Disciples.

C **Thanks be to God.**

	7:00 PM
ASSISTING MINISTER	AMY LYTLE
PASTOR	THE REV. AARON LAYNE