

REND

YOUR **HEARTS**

NOT YOUR GARMENTS

—◆—
TURN
TO THE
LORD
—◆—

FOR YOUR **GOD**

IS **GRACIOUS**

AND **MERCIFUL.**

SLOW TO ANGER AND OF

GREAT KINDNESS

JOEL 2:13

Lent

Welcome dear feast of Lent: who loves not thee,
He loves not Temperance, or Authority,
But is compos'd of passion.
The Scriptures bid us fast;
the Church says, now:
Give to thy Mother, what thou wouldst allow
To ev'ry Corporation.

The humble soul compos'd of love and fear
Begins at home, and lays the burden there,
When doctrines disagree,
He says, in things which use hath justly got,
I am a scandal to the Church, and not
The Church is so to me.

True Christians should be glad of an occasion
To use their temperance, seeking no evasion,
When good is seasonable;
Unless Authority, which should increase
The obligation in us, make it less,
And Power itself disable.

Besides the cleanness of sweet abstinence,
Quick thoughts and motions at a small expense,
A face not fearing light:
Whereas in fulness there are sluttish fumes,
Sour exhalations, and dishonest rheums,
Revenging the delight.

Then those same pendant profits,
which the spring
And Easter intimate, enlarge the thing,
And goodness of the deed.
Neither ought other men's abuse of Lent
Spoil the good use; lest by that argument
We forfeit all our Creed.

It's true, we cannot reach Christ's forti'eth day;
Yet to go part of that religious way,
Is better than to rest:
We cannot reach our Saviour's purity;
Yet we are bid, 'Be holy ev'n as he,'
In both let's do our best.

Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone,
Is much more sure to meet with him, than one
That travelleth by-ways:
Perhaps my God, though he be far before,
May turn and take me by the hand, and more:
May strengthen my decays.

Yet Lord instruct us to improve our fast
By starving sin and taking such repast,
As may our faults control:
That ev'ry man may revel at his door,
Not in his parlour; banqueting the poor,
And among those his soul.

-George Herbert

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes



On this day the service begins in silence. All rise as the ministers of the service enter.

The presider addresses the people, saying

Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures for ever.

Presider: Let us pray:

All: 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.

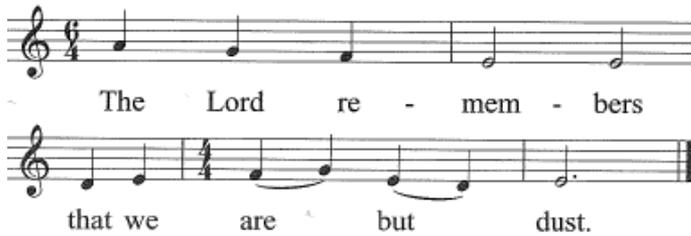
The Liturgy of the Word

First 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?"

Psalm 103:8-14



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- 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. *Refrain*
- 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. *Refrain*
- 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 re'members that we are but dust. *Refrain*

Second Reading: 2 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.

Hymn 143 “The glory of these forty days”

Erhalt uns, Herr

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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.

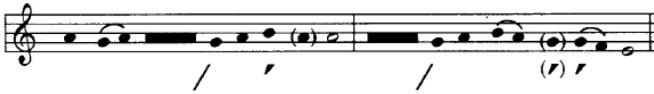
“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Sermon

The Rev. Eric R. Litman

Psalm 51

Chanted by the choir



- 1 *Have mērcy* on me, O God, according to your / loving-kindness;*
in your great compassion / blot out mÿ offēnses.
- 2 Wash me through and through / from my wíckedness*
and / cleanse me frōm mÿ sin.
- 3 For I know / my transgrēssions,*
and my sin is / ever bēfōrē me.
- 4 Against you only / have I sinned*
and done what is / evil in yōur sight.
- 5 And so you are justified / when you spēak*
and up/right in yōur jūdgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked / from my bīrth,*
a sinner / from my mōthēr's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth / deep withín me,*
and will make me understand / wisdom sēcřtly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, / and I shall be pure;*
wash me, and I / shall be clēan índeed.
- 9 Make me hear of / joy and gládness,*
that the body you have / broken māy rējoice.
- 10 Hide your face / from my síns*
and blot out / all my íniquities.
- 11 Create in me / a clean héart, O God,*
and renew a / right spírít withín me.
- 12 Cast me not away / from your présence*
and take not your holy / Spírít frōm me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your / saving hēlp again*
and sustain me with your / bountíful Spírít.
- 14 I shall teach your ways / to the wícked,*
and sinners / shall retúrn tō you.
- 15 Deliver / me from déath, O God,*
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O / God of mÿ salvátion.
- 16 O/pen my líps, O Lord,*
and my mouth / shall procláim yōur praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have / offered sácřifice,*

but you take no de/light in bürnt-óffërings.
18 The sacrifice of God is a / troubled spírit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O / God, you will nó t dëspise.

BCP, p. 267 The Litany of Penitence

BCP, p. 269 The Absolution

The Peace

Greetings

Offertory Anthem: Call to remembrance, O Lord

Richard Farrant

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, p. 367

Sanctus et Benedictus qui venit S 124

David Hurd

The Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei S 160

Hurd

The Communion of the People

All people are welcome to receive communion in this place.

Communion Anthem: Lord, for thy tender mercies' sake

Farrant

The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Almighty God,**

you have given your only Son to be for us

both a sacrific e for sin

and also an example of godly life:

give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive

these his inestimable gifts,

and also daily endeavor

to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 149 "Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church"

Old 124th

Lenten Charge over the People

Dismissal

The congregation departs in silence after the ministers of the service have withdrawn.

The Officiant is The Reverend Todd Miller.
The Preacher is The Reverend Eric R. Litman.
The Eucharistic Minister is Laura Brewer.
The organist is Jeffrey Mills.
The altar was prepared by Patty Schoeck
and the Altar Guild of Saint John's.



This evening's free-will offering will be given entirely to
the Centre Street Food Pantry,
which provides nutritional support to our neighbors in need.



St. John's Episcopal Church
297 Lowell Avenue
Newtonville, Massachusetts