

REND

YOUR **HEARTS**

NOT YOUR GARDENTS

—♦—
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 composed 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 composed 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 fullness 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 fortieth 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 parlor; banqueting the poor,
And among those his soul.

– *George Herbert*



Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024, 7:00 pm

Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes

On this day the service begins in silence. Please stand as you are able as the ministers of the service enter.

Presider: Blessed be God who forgives all our sins.

***People:* God's mercy endures forever.**

Presider: God be with you.

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

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.**

Please be seated.

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Reader: A reading from the Prophet 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, abounding in steadfast love,
 and relenting from punishment.

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;
 consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 gather the people.
Consecrate 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 God's people.

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



Psalm 103:8-14

The Choir sings Refrain; the Congregation repeats. The Choir sings Verses; the Congregation sings Refrain where indicated.

The Lord is full of com - pas - sion and mer - cy,
slow to an - ger and of great kind - ness.

- 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. **Refrain**
- 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. **Refrain**
- 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. **Refrain**

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Reader: A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians:

We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we entreat 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.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, 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: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; in 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 look — 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 God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn 140

“Wilt thou forgive that sin, where I begun”

Donne



Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your righteousness 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 somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces 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."

Priest: The Gospel of our Savior.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Todd L. Miller

The Invitation and Imposition of Ashes

BCP p. 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.

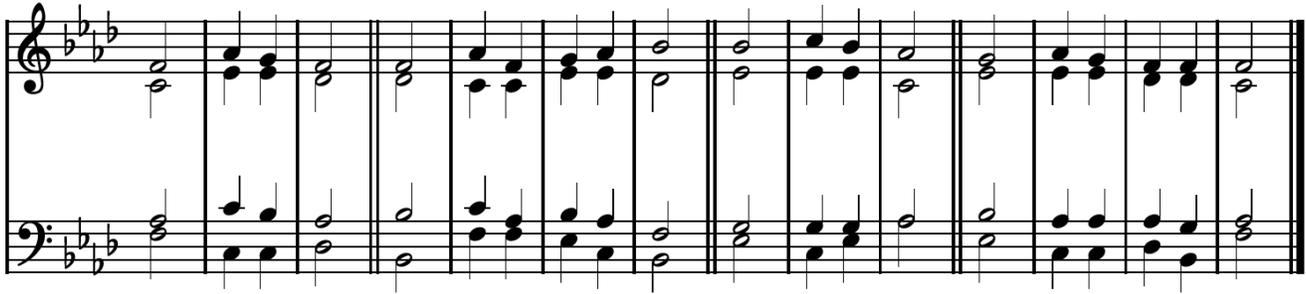
Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The ashes are imposed with the following words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

A Note on the Imposition of Ashes: For those who do not wish to be imposed with ashes, please know that the imposition of ashes is entirely optional to tonight's liturgy. It is possible to still make a right beginning to this season of repentance without receiving the ashes.

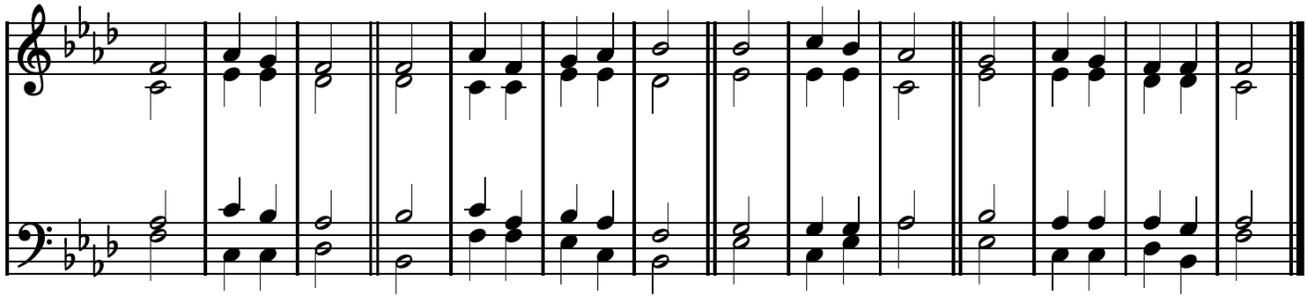
During the imposition of ashes, the Choir and Congregation sing Psalm 51:1-18.





- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your¹ loving¹ kindness; *
in your great compassion¹ blot out¹ my of¹ fenses.
- 2 Wash me through and¹ through from my¹ wickedness *
and¹ cleanse me¹ from my¹ sin.
- 3 For I¹ know my trans¹ gressions, *
and my¹ sin is¹ ever be¹ fore me.
- 4 Against you¹ only have I¹ sinned *
and done what is¹ evil¹ in your¹ sight.
- 5 And so you are justified¹ when you¹ speak *
and¹ upright¹ in your¹ judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been¹ wicked from my¹ birth, *
a¹ sinner from my¹ mother's¹ womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth¹ deep with¹ in me, *
and will make me under¹ stand¹ wisdom¹ secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and¹ I shall be¹ pure; *
wash me, and¹ I shall be¹ clean in¹ deed.





- 9 Make me hear of¹ joy and¹ gladness, *
that the body you have¹ broken¹ may re¹joice.
- 10 Hide your¹ face from my¹ sins *
and blot¹ out all¹ my in¹iquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean¹ heart, O¹ God, *
and re¹new a right¹ spirit with¹in me.
- 12 Cast me not a¹ way from your¹ presence *
and take not your¹ holy¹ Spirit¹ from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving¹ help a¹ gain *
and sus¹tain me with your¹ bountiful¹ Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your¹ ways to the¹ wicked, *
and sinners¹ shall re¹turn to¹ you.
- 15 Deliver me from¹ death, O¹ God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O¹ God of¹ my sal¹vation.
- 16 Open my¹ lips, O¹ Lord, *
and my¹ mouth shall pro¹claim your¹ praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have¹ offered¹ sacrifice, *
but you take no de¹light in¹ burnt¹ offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a¹ troubled¹ spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O¹ God, you will¹ not des¹pise.

The Litany of Penitence

BCP p. 267

*Please kneel as you are able and join in the **bolded** portions.*

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.

The Absolution

BCP p. 269

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

Please stand as you are able.

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Greetings and Announcements

Offertory

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



Anthem

Call to remembrance

Richard Farrant (1535-1580)

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercy and thy loving-kindness, which have been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offences of my youth: but according to thy mercy, think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

– Psalm 25:5, 6

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP p 361
(Expansive Language Version)

Please stand as you are able.

Presider: God be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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 and Benedictus S 124

David Hurd

Presider: 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 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider: 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.**



The Lord's Prayer

BCP p 365

Presider: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: **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

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem S 161

Hurd

Presentation of the Gifts

Presider: 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.

- All people are welcome to receive communion at God's table in this place. -

St. John's is currently offering communion in both kinds. Please be reassured that communion is fully received through receiving the host alone. Due to public health guidelines, we are not practicing intinction (dipping the host in the chalice). If you would like to receive communion in both kinds, you are invited to drink directly from the chalice.

Communion Anthem Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts. Shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayer, but spare us, Lord most holy. O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour for any pains of death to fall from thee. Amen. –Funeral Sentences, BCP 1662

The Prayer After Communion

BCP p 365
(Expansive Language Version)

Please stand as you are able.

Presider: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us
as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.**

Lenten Prayer over the People

In Lent, in place of a blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used.

Presider: Bow down before the Lord.

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Hymn 149

“Eternal Lord of love, behold your church”

Old 124th

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





LEADERS OF THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

Presider: The Reverend Michael Thompson, Esq.

Preacher: The Reverend Todd L. Miller

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Betsy Blagdon

Music Director: Jeffrey Mills

Lector: Tom Wood

Usher: Tom Wood

Altar Guild: Libby Seaman, Patty Schoeck, and Cleo Messinger

IT Minister: Ken Sinclair

Vestry Person of the Day: Laura Brewer

Coffee Hour: The Reverend Michael Thompson, Esq.

St. John's is thankful to be joined this evening by
The Reverend Todd L. Miller and the People of Trinity Church, Newton Centre

Our choir welcomes Kyrrah Rodriguez, soprano, this evening.





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The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates, *Bishop of Massachusetts*
The Right Reverend Dr. Carol J. Gallagher, *Assistant Bishop of Massachusetts*

The Reverend Michael Thompson, Esq., *Priest-in-Charge*
rev.michael.thompson.esq@gmail.com

Kristin Knudson & Laura Brewer, *Wardens*

Betsy Blagdon, *Treasurer*

Becky Snow, *Clerk*

Alastair Battson, Nancy Bowler, Robert Main,
Sarah Moravick, Elizabeth Seaman, Alexandra Stanton
Vestry Members

Jeffrey Mills, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Cathy Richmond Robinson, *Parish Administrator*

Licensed Lay Readers/Eucharistic Ministers:

Laura Brewer, Brian Goeselt, Marina Matuzek,
Abby Strayer, Tim Strayer, Jessica Zabchuk Dion

