ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY
The Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes – Rite I
February 26, 2020  7:30 pm

Welcome! We are glad you chose to worship with us today and invite you to participate fully in our service.

The offering today is designated to Episcopal Relief and Development.

VOLUNTARY

Chorale • William Mathias
(1934–1992)

The service begins in silence. The people stand as the ministers enter and remain standing through the Collect of the Day.

The congregation is invited to make all the responses printed in boldface type.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
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, forever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated for the First Lesson, Psalm, and Second Lesson.

THE FIRST LESSON

Return to the Lord, your God • 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?'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL PSALM

The congregation repeats the Refrain after the choir or cantor and again after each group of verses as indicated.

Refrain

Mode 2

The Lord re-mem-bers that we are but dust.

from Gradual Psalms for the RCL, ed. Bruce E. Ford, Church Publishing Incorporated

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

THE EPISTLE

Now is the day of salvation • 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand to sing the Sequence Hymn, and remain standing for the Gospel.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Lord Jesus, Sun of Righteousness • Cornhill • Hymnal 144

THE GOSPEL

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

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated for the Sermon.
THE EXHORTATION

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.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES  The choir goes forward first

Miserere mei, Deus (Psalm 51:1-18)  Sung by the choir  Tone IV.1

The people kneel.

LITANY OF PENITENCE  The text in bold print is said by all.

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.**

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

*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**  
Miserere mei • William Byrd (1542–1623)

Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam; Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum dele iniquitatem meam.  
*Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness: according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.*
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant adds a Proper Preface.

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 & BENEDICTUS  Sung by all.  David Hurd • Hymnal S 124

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord 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 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.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER
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 FRACTION ANTHEM  Sung by all  Agnus Dei • David Hurd

Hymnal S 161

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.
MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to come to the altar. There is a place set here for you. Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Baptized Christians may receive Communion. Those not yet baptized may receive a blessing. The ushers will guide you forward.

COMMUNION HYMN  Sung by all, seated

Jesus, all my gladness • Jesu, meine Früede • Hymnal 701

COMMUNION MOTET

Bless the Lord • Taizé

Kristin Reichert, soprano

Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God’s holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER  Said by all, standing

Let us pray

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.

LENTEN SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Bow down before the Lord.

All bow.

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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us • Dulce carmen • Hymnal 559

THE DISMISSAL

The deacon sends the people forth, and the people respond Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Ricercar XXI • Girolamo Parabosco

(c. 1524–1557)

COPYRIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: All music is reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net A-719477.

PRESIDER & PREACHER: The Rev. Denise Guinta
DEACON: The Rev. Shirley Ruedy
ALTAR CHAIR: Susanna Larner
EUCARISTIC MINISTERS: Katie Cathey, Lilchy Huffman

LECTOR: Mary Schwaner
USHERS: Ted Cathey, Ken McAllister
ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Virginia Bolena
ASSISTANT ORGANIST: Louise Temple-Rosebrook