



LITURGY OF THE WORD

All stand as the ministers enter in silence.

Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: **His mercy endures for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

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.

Old Testament 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?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 103:8-14

Remain seated.

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.
- 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.
- 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.

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Remain seated.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

At Noon and 7 PM services only

Sequence Hymn

All stand.

Hymnal 1982 – 147

Now let us all with one accord

Bourbon

1 Now let us all with one accord, in company with ages past,
keep vigil with our heavenly Lord in his temptation and his fast.

2 The covenant, so long revealed to those of faith in former time,
Christ by his own example sealed, the Lord of love, in love sublime.

3 Your love, O Lord, our sinful race has not returned, but falsified;
author of mercy, turn your face and grant repentance for our pride.

4 Remember, Lord, though frail we be, in your own image were we made;
help us, lest in anxiety, we cause your Name to be betrayed.

5 Therefore, we pray you, Lord, forgive;
so when our wanderings here shall cease,
we may with you for ever live, in love and unity and peace.

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

All remain standing.

Gospeller: 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.”

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Reverend Nancy L.J. Cox

Invitation to a Holy Lent

BCP P. 264 (LOC P. 182)

All stand.

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.

Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

All kneel as you are able.

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.**

*Those people desiring may then come and kneel before the altar rail
to receive the imposition of ashes.*

Psalm 51

The Celebrant and people all kneeling then pray,

- 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.

Celebrant: 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.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Celebrant: 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.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Celebrant: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride,
hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other
people,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more
fortunate than ourselves,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our
dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend
the faith that is in us,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant: 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,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our
neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who
differ from us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Celebrant: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Celebrant: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

People: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

The Celebrant continues

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

BCP p. 360

All stand

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

BCP p. 376

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

Offertory Anthem

Lord Jesus, think on me

Georgiann H. Toole

Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin.
From earth-born passions set me free, and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, amid the battle's strife.
In all my pain and misery be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray.
Through darkness and perplexity point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when this life is past,
I may eternal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.

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Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving *All stand.*

Sursum Corda

BCP p. 361

The People remain standing.

Celebrant: 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.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

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

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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

Sung at 7 PM service only.

See pew card for music.

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. 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.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all. He 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 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation *Sung at 7 PM service only.* *See pew card for music.*

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

The Great Amen

Sung at 7 PM service only.

See pew card for music.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 363

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

People and Celebrant

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

Fraction Anthem *Sung at 7:00 PM service only.* *See pew card for music.*

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.

Invitation

BCP p. 364

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

A prayer for those joining online to be unified in Communion with Christ.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

Music at Communion

Hymnal 1982 – 693

Just as I am, without one plea

Woodworth

Sung at Noon & 7:00 PM services only

1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt;
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

3 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

4 Just as I am: thou wilt receive;
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

5 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

6 Just as I am, of thy great love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above:
O Lamb of God, I come.

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The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

After Communion, 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.**

Solemn Prayer

Deacon: Bow down before the Lord.

Celebrant: 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.

Announcements

Post-Communion Hymn

Hymnal 1982 – 143

The glory of these forty days

Erhalt uns, Herr

Sung at Noon & 7:00 PM service only

1 The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has
prayed.

2 Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.

3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.

4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full oft in fast and prayer with thee;
our spirits strengthen with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.

5 O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, to thee be every prayer addressed,
who art in threefold Name adored, from age to age, the only Lord.

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Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

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A Note on Today's Readings

Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church on this first day of Lent. Today the Liturgy presents a challenge to Christian people. It confronts us with the radical change in living which is the Way of Christ.

We are faced with sin and salvation as alternative directions for our lives: sin as separation from God, from others, from our selves and from the natural world; salvation as reconciliation with God, others, our selves, and the natural world.

The Liturgy on Ash Wednesday is reduced to its primary elements of Word and Sacrament. We are called to consider our mortality and in that context our sin and our absolute dependence upon God for salvation and for life.

We may be tempted to limit our concerns to our sins and our mortality, letting the ashes be the most important thing in our worship today. But we use the ashes simply as the starting point for that which is far deeper and ultimately more important: salvation. The ashes, the penitence, the fasting: all of these are but means toward the goal of Ash Wednesday, of Lent, indeed, of all Christian living; namely, repentance, new life, and ministry to others.

“Be reconciled to God...” Paul tells us. Make your prayer, fasting, and ministry the marks of an inner and fundamental way of living day in and day out, says the Lord. In his teaching about fasting, Jesus echoes the message Isaiah had given to Israel centuries earlier.

“Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return,” is turned around into, “you shall have life, and you shall have it abundantly.”

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