



Ash Wednesday · February 14, 2024 · Light of Christ

# Please enter and await in silence.

**The congregation says together items in bold.**

*Notes on the service are in italics.*

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*Please stand.*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever.**

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. In this manner, 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 that all Christians continually have to renew our 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 alms-giving; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

And to make a right beginning, let us now pray for grace, that we may faithfully keep this Lent.

*Please kneel if you are able.*

*A period of silent prayer follows.*

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you 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

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Blow a trumpet in Zion;  
    sound an 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  
    there is spread upon the mountains  
    a great and powerful people;  
their like has never been before,  
    nor will be again after them  
    through the years of all generations.

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord,  
    “return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping,  
    and with mourning;  
    and rend your hearts and not your garments.”  
Return to the Lord your God,  
    for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
    and he relents over disaster.  
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 elders;  
gather the children,  
    even nursing infants.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
    and the bride her chamber.

Between the vestibule and the altar  
    let the priests, the ministers of the Lord,  
weep  
and say, “Spare your people, O Lord,  
    and make not your heritage a reproach,  
    a byword among the nations.  
Why should they say among the peoples,  
    ‘Where is their God?’”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 103

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- 1 Praise the Lord, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.
- 2 Praise the Lord, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits:
- 3 Who forgives all your sin \*  
and heals all your infirmities,
- 4 Who saves your life from the pit \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness,
- 5 Who satisfies you with good things, \*  
renewing your youth like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness and judgment \*  
for all those who are oppressed with wrong.
- 7 He showed his ways to Moses, \*  
his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
long-suffering and of great goodness.
- 9 He will not always chide us, \*  
neither 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 great is his mercy also  
toward those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he set our sins from us.
- 13 As a father pities his own children, \*  
so is the Lord merciful to those who fear him.
- 14 For he knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.
- 15 The days of man are as grass; \*  
he flourishes as a flower of the field.
- 16 For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures  
for ever and ever upon those who fear him, \*  
and his righteousness upon children's children,
- 18 Even upon those who keep his covenant \*  
and think upon his commandments to do them.
- 19 The Lord has prepared his throne in heaven, \*  
and his kingdom rules over all.
- 20 O praise the Lord, you angels of his,  
you that excel in strength, \*  
you that fulfill his commandment,  
and hearken unto the voice of his words.
- 21 O praise the Lord, all you his hosts, \*  
you servants of his that do his pleasure.
- 22 O speak good of the Lord, all you works of his,  
in all places of his dominion; \*  
praise the Lord, O my soul.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

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Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore 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.

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we

commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, ...  
**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

## **Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

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“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys 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 Jesus.

**Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## Imposition of Ashes

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Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

Almighty God, you have created us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a symbol of our mortality and a sign of our penitence, that we may remember that it is by your grace alone that we receive the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

*The ashes are imposed by the priest saying:  
"Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."*

*Fr. Eirik will impose ashes on each person in the congregation. Come forward just as you would for communion.*

*If you prefer not to receive ashes, remain seated.*

## Psalm 51

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<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me through and through  
from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.

<sup>5</sup> And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.

<sup>6</sup> Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>7</sup> For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

<sup>8</sup> Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

<sup>9</sup> Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

<sup>10</sup> Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>12</sup> Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

<sup>13</sup> Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.

<sup>15</sup> Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.

<sup>16</sup> Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

<sup>17</sup> Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

<sup>18</sup> The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God,  
you will not despise.

## Confession

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*Please kneel if you are able.*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**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.**

**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.**

### The Litany of Penitence

Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience;  
for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy of our lives;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of  
those we think more fortunate than ourselves;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and  
resentment; for all lies, gossip, and slander  
against our neighbors.

Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other  
people, and our failure to give of ourselves in love;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our  
intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

For our dishonesty in daily life and work, our  
ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure to heed  
your call.

Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

For our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after  
us;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt  
of others, and for all uncharitable thoughts toward  
our neighbors;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**



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For our negligence in prayer and worship; for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of God; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

For our failure to commend the faith that is in us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**For we have sinned against you.**

**Show favor to your people, O Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath you remember mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare us; in the multitude of your mercies, look upon us and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Comfortable Words

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

This saying is true and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

## The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And with your spirit.**

*Please greet someone near you.  
Be seated for announcements.*

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## The Eucharist

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*Please stand.*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, . . .

. . . Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord**

**God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes  
in the Name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

. . . Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

. . . Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and for ever.

**Amen.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowéd 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.**

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*Please kneel if you are able.*

**We do not presume to come to this your Table,  
O merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your abundant and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the  
crumbs under your table;  
but you are the same Lord  
whose character is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh  
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean  
by his body,  
and our souls washed through  
his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us.  
Amen.**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Please be seated.*

*All who are baptized in the name of the Father,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit and are committed  
to following Jesus are welcome to receive  
Communion.*

*If you wish to receive communion, come for-  
ward and hold out cupped hands to receive the  
bread. The priest will say "The body of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, broken for you." You may respond  
"Amen," then eat the bread. Then the commu-  
nion minister will offer two trays of communion  
cups. The shiny tray contains wine and the dull*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
**grant us your peace.**

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.

*tray contains grape juice. The minister will say,  
"The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, poured out  
for you." You may respond "Amen," then drink the  
wine. Place the used cup in the nearby basket.*

*All are welcome to receive a blessing by going  
forward and crossing your arms across your  
chest and the priest will pray over you instead.  
You can also remain seated.*

## The Post-Communion Prayer & Blessing

*Please stand.*

Let us pray.

**O Lord our God, grant us grace  
to desire you with our whole heart:  
that desiring you, we may seek you;  
and that seeking you, we may find you;  
and that finding you, we may love you;  
and that loving you, we may hate those sins  
from which you have delivered us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

May God the Father, who does not despise  
the broken spirit, give to you a contrite  
heart. **Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the  
tree, heal you by his wounds. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the  
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain  
with you always. **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

Go forth in the light and peace of Christ,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

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# Light of Christ

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