



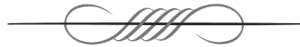
Saint Matthew Episcopal Church

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Ash Wednesday February 22, 2023



The Holy Eucharist II w/ The Imposition of Ashes

Procession to the Altar

Silence

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from 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.**

Psalm 103

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**
- 3 He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 **He redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 **The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.**
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel.
- 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.

15 Our days are like the grass; we flourish like a flower of the field;

16 When 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 on those who fear him, and his righteousness on children's children;

18 On those who keep his covenant and remember his commandments and do them.

19 The LORD has set his throne in heaven, and his kingship has dominion over all.

20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, and hearken to the voice of his word.

21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will.

22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; bless the LORD, O my soul.

A Reading from 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (6:1-6, 16-21)

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 Sermon

Silence for reflection

The Imposition of Ashes

[Please see Book of Common Prayer, pg. 264]

After the Sermon, all stand, and the Celebrant invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion....

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling as able.

Before the ashes are imposed, the Celebrant says the following prayer

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 people are then invited forward to receive the imposition of ashes at the rail.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Then, returning to the pews, the people kneel as able.

Psalm 51 (in unison after the first asterisk)

[Please see Book of Common Prayer, pg. 266]

Litany of Penitence

[Please see Book of Common Prayer, pg. 267]

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory

Our Sunday loose cash offerings go to our Emergency Aid Fund, which directly serves families and individuals in need within our community. Your generosity makes saying "yes" to those who need help the most possible.



The Great Thanksgiving – D

[Please see Book of Common Prayer, pg. 372]

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.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks...

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

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.

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power....
...we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy...

...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, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we
now pray,

**Our father in heaven
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,**

your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and Holy Communion

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

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

All persons are invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion in one or both of the elements or receive a blessing. Gluten-free hosts and alcohol-free wine are available upon request at the rail. If you have yet to be baptized and are interested in learning more about this sacrament, please see one of the clergy following the liturgy.

If you do not wish to come forward for Communion or a blessing, or if you are attending the liturgy virtually, you are invited to pray the following from The St. Augustine's Prayer Book.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive Communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most

precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Solemn Prayer over the People

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.**

Procession to the Neighborhood

St. Matthew Mission Statement

To be a church that passionately embraces and values all people, growing in the love of Christ through word and action.

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.
