



Ash Wednesday
March 2, 2022, 7:00 pm

WELCOME
to St. Mary's Episcopal Church

a member of the Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Big Rapids, MI

Seeking every day to love God
with our whole heart, mind, and
soul, and to love our neighbors
as ourselves.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Cadillac, MI

We strive to live out the Great
Commandment: To love the
Lord with all our heart, soul, and
mind and to love our neighbors
as ourselves.

If you have a faith or are seeking one, you are always welcome here.

If you are visiting or looking for a spiritual home,
we'd love to get to know you.

SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY
With the Imposition of Ashes

We enter Lent in silence.

Celebrant Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins

People **His mercy endures forever.**

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.**

The Lessons

All sit as able.

The First Lesson

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

Reader A reading from the book of 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, 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

BCP 733

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Reader A reading from the second letter of Paul to the
 Corinthians.

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

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

All stand as able.

Celebrant 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

Mtr. Radha Kaminski

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.

Silence is then kept for a time. You are invited to kneel, as you are able.

The Imposition of Ashes

Celebrant 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.

You are invited to come forward to receive ashes.

The ashes are imposed with the following words

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

Psalm 51

read in unison

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.**

**And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment**

**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

**For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

**Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

**Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, * and my tongue shall sing of
your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice;
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Litany of Penitence *You are invited to kneel, as you are able.*

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.**

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 Priest, stands and, facing the people, says

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 as able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The People greet one another in the name of the Lord; in this season we encourage a bow, wave or other appropriate gesture.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

The celebrant says the offertory sentence.

After the gifts are brought to the altar,

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP 369

All stand as able.

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.

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the

planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All **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 kneel or stand as able.

Celebrant And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**People We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

BCP 364

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

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Everyone is welcome to receive communion. There is no one who is too old or too young, no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. This is the altar prepared by a loving God for all creation by the power of Jesus Christ. You, who are part of that creation, are welcome.

Please come down the center aisle to the front of the altar to receive communion. Return to your seat by the side aisles.

If you do not wish to receive communion, but would like a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, ask the priest for one when you come forward.

Prayer after Communion

All stand or kneel as able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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 Over the People

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel as able.

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.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

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