

Ash Wednesday – February 17, 2021



The Invocation is immediately after the ringing of the bell.

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray:

O almighty and everlasting God, spare those who are penitent, be merciful to those who implore Thee, and grant that these ashes may be a wholesome reminder to all who humbly implore Thy Holy Name, and who accuse themselves, conscious of their sins, deploring their crimes before Thy Divine mercy, and humbly and earnestly beseeching Thy Divine goodness: and grant through the invocation of Thy most Holy Name that whosoever shall be sprinkled with them may also in faith, by Thy grace, receive the remission of their sins for both health of body and safety of soul; through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord.

C Amen.

P O God, Thou desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he turn from his wickedness and live. We beseech Thee to have compassion upon the frailty of our mortal nature; and in Thy goodness grant through these ashes which we purpose to put upon our heads as a token of our lowliness and remorse, that we may also be reminded that we are but ashes, and for the demerits of our wickedness we shall return to

dust, and grant that we may obtain by Thy mercy the pardon of all our sins, and the heavenly reward promised to those who trust in Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P O God, Thou were moved and appeased by the humiliation and satisfaction of Thy Son Jesus Christ for the sin of the world; incline the ear of Thy goodness to our prayers and mercifully pour forth upon the heads of Thy servants sprinkled with these ashes the grace of Thy blessing, that Thou may fill them with the spirit of contrition and of faith to trust that Thou will grant what they have humbly prayed for. And grant that this faith may abide unto everlasting life; through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, Thou bestowest Thy healing pardon to the Ninevites who repented in sackcloth and ashes, mercifully grant that we may so imitate them in our outward attitude as a sign of our inward penitence as to follow them in obtaining Thy forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reignth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

C Amen.

PASTORAL ADDRESS FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

P Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's Passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for Baptism and First Communion in the Great Vigil of Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had become separated through sin. In the course of time, the Church came to recognize that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a Holy Lent, by self-examination and penitence; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins unto Him, and implore His forgiveness.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the assistance of the Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

[Sit] **IMPOSITION OF ASHES and INDIVIDUAL ABSOLUTION**

At this point, in the history of the Church's liturgy, the faithful approached the altar, and kneeling, received the imposition of ashes, accompanied by these words: 'Remember, O man, that you are dust, and to dust you shall return (Genesis 3:19)!' At this time, We pause to meditate in song and silence on the sobering thought of our own mortality due to sin.

Those who desire to come forward and receive the ashes may do so at this time. After receiving the individual absolution, return to your seat and remain seated until the imposition of ashes is completed. Then stand for prayer.

Elder: Remember, O man, that you are dust, + and to dust you shall return.

Penitent: Amen.

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Penitent: Amen.

Ash Distribution

608 Lord, to You I Make Confession

- 1 Lord, to You I make confession: I have sinned and gone astray,
I have multiplied transgression, Chosen for myself my way.
Led by You to see my errors, Lord, I tremble at Your terrors.
- 2 Yet, though conscience' voice appall me, Father, I will seek Your face;
Though Your child I dare not call me, Yet receive me in Your grace.
Do not for my sins forsake me; Let Your wrath not overtake me.
- 3 For Your Son has suffered for me, Giv'n Himself to rescue me,
Died to save me and restore me, Reconciled and set me free.
Jesus' cross alone can vanquish These dark fears and soothe this
anguish.
- 4 Lord, on You I cast my burden— Sink it in the deepest sea!
Let me know Your gracious pardon, Cleanse me from iniquity.
Let Your Spirit leave me never; Make me only Yours forever.

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Litany for Ash Wednesday

P O Lord, **C** have mercy.

P O Christ, **C** have mercy.

P O Lord, **C** have mercy.

P O Christ, **C** hear us.

P God the Father in heaven,

C have mercy.

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C have mercy.

P God the Holy Spirit,

C have mercy.

P Be gracious to us.

C Spare us, good Lord.

P Be gracious to us.

C Help us, good Lord.

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C Help us, good Lord.

P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C Help us, good Lord.

P We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

P To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, **C we implore You to hear us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ, **C hear us.**

P O Lord, **C have mercy.**

P O Christ, **C have mercy.**

P O Lord, **C have mercy. Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that Thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those 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 Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and Holy Ghost : ever one God, world without end. **C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and 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. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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. ¹⁷Between 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?’” ¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

²**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.**

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴**Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶**For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸**Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;**

¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;

then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Glory be 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.

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;

Epistle

2 Peter 1:2–11

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¶ This is the Word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

Tract

Psalm 103:10; 79:8a, 9a

He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
Do not remember against us our former iniquities;
let your compassion come speedily to meet us.
Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:16–21

¶ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

☩ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁶[Jesus said:] “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. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that 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. ¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

¶ This is the Gospel of the Lord. **☩** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

- 1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and tribulation;
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me, Lord, hear my supplication.
If Thou rememb'rest ev'ry sin,
Who then could heaven ever win Or stand before Thy presence?
- 2 Thy love and grace alone avail To blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail To break sin's dread oppression.
Before Thee none can boasting stand,
But all must fear Thy strict demand And live alone by mercy.
- 3 Therefore my hope is in the Lord And not in mine own merit;
It rests upon His faithful Word To them of contrite spirit
That He is merciful and just;
This is my comfort and my trust. His help I wait with patience.
- 4 And though it tarry through the night And till the morning waken,
My heart shall never doubt His might Nor count itself forsaken.
O Israel, trust in God your Lord.
Born of the Spirit and the Word, Now wait for His appearing.
- 5 Though great our sins, yet greater still Is God's abundant favor;
His hand of mercy never will Abandon us, nor waver.
Our shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free From all their sin and sorrow.

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Sermon

Offertory

LSB 192

☐ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

[Offering]

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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 forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

- 1 Jesus, grant that balm and healing
In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling
Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning
Keep me from its first beginning.

- 2 Should some lust or sharp temptation
Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion,
And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard,
Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, “Christ for me was wounded,”
That the tempter flee confounded.

- 3 If the world my heart entices
With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices,
Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure.
Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation,
Calm in prayer and meditation.
- 4 Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all-atoning passion
Has procured my soul's salvation.
- 5 O my God, my rock and tower,
Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power
Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony
Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection,
Light and life and resurrection.

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614 "As Surely as I Live," God Said

- 1 "As surely as I live," God said,
"I would not see the sinner dead.
I want him turned from error's ways,
Repentant, living endless days."
- 2 And so our Lord gave this command:
"Go forth and preach in ev'ry land;
Bestow on all My pard'ning grace
Who will repent and mend their ways.

- 3 “All those whose sins you thus remit
I truly pardon and acquit,
And those whose sins you will retain
Condemned and guilty shall remain.
- 4 “What you will bind, that bound shall be;
What you will loose, that shall be free;
To My dear Church the keys are giv’n
To open, close the gates of heav’n.”
- 5 The words which absolution give
Are His who died that we might live;
The minister whom Christ has sent
Is but His humble instrument.
- 6 When ministers lay on their hands,
Absolved by Christ the sinner stands;
He who by grace the Word believes
The purchase of His blood receives.
- 7 All praise to You, O Christ, shall be
For absolution full and free,
In which You show Your richest grace;
From false indulgence guard our race.

△8 Praise God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
As was, is now, and so shall be
World without end, eternally!

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Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

☩ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

☩ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

☩ and His mercy endureth forever.

☩ Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **☩** Amen.

☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

☩ Bless we the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

☩ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace. **☩** Amen, amen, amen.

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

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