



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024 12:00PM and 6:00PM

+ THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND
CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

Stand

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Ashes have been a sign of repentance and contrition over the centuries. They are a reminder that, without the mercy of Almighty God, we deserve the spiritual death pronounced on our first parents. Without the sustenance God provides on every level of human existence, we are only dust, and to dust we shall return.

AMEN

Imposition of Ashes

Confession and Absolution

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *Psalm 130:3–5*
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.
C **Amen.**
- P** Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?
C **Yes.**
- P** Let it be done for you as you believe
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in peace.

C Amen.

HYMN #419

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

OPENING SENTENCES

P When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, . . . she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

C **Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.**

P Jesus . . . for forty days, being tempted by the devil . . . ate nothing during those days.

C **And when they were ended, He was hungry.**

P The birds of the air . . . neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

C **Are you not of more value than they?**

P Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

C **Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Joel 2:12-17*

¹² “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to Me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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?’

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for His land
and had pity on His people.
¹⁹ The 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!

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

^{5:20} We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1} Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² 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. ³ We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷ by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

P [Jesus said,] 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN #607 “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”

SERMON

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.
- P** For all who are denied basic food, clothing, or shelter, that God would provide whatever they need to support this body and life, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the Body of Christ around the world, that God would protect and guide clergy and lay leaders so that the Gospel may be proclaimed freely and many may come to faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy**
- P** For all who try to hide their sins and failings, fearing God's wrath and people's scorn, that the Holy Spirit would grant them faith to know and trust the forgiveness Christ won for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all parents and children, especially those in fractured families and those dealing with daily turmoil, that our heavenly Father would surround them with caring friends and counselors to renew the love that they have lost, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all whose lives are focused on relief from pain and suffering, from illness or addiction, [including . . .], that according to His gracious plans God would bring about healing, relief, and health to body and mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who serve in hospitals; all in the armed forces, in police, emergency, and fire departments; and all public servants in government, that God would protect, strengthen, and guide them for the good of the whole society, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who understand Jesus only as a moral teacher or example of pious living, that the Holy Spirit would open their hearts to see that Jesus' death is the reason He became man and to trust that in dying He did everything necessary for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who fear death and all who are in mourning, that the Holy Spirit grant them faith to see the death of all who trust in Christ as a sleep from which they shall awaken, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son and our Brother, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

+ SACRAMENT +

Preface

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

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heaven 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

P 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.

C **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

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

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

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

#609 “Lord, to You I Make Confession”
#615 “When in the Hour of Deepest Need”

Benediction

Closing Hymn

#878 “Abide with Me”