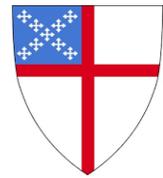




EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
BURNET, TEXAS



ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 2, 2022

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A reading from the Book of the prophet 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.

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah. [58:1-12]

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The text of the psalms today is taken from the Coverdale version in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

Psalm 103:1-14 *Benedic, anima mea*

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 forgiveth all thy sin, *
and healeth all thine infirmities;
- 4 Who saveth thy life from destruction, *
and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things, *
making thee young and lusty as an eagle.
- 6 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment *
for all them that are oppressed with wrong.
- 7 He showed his ways unto Moses, *
his works unto the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
long-suffering, and of great goodness.
- 9 He will not always be chiding; *
neither keepeth he his anger for ever.
- 10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; *
nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.
- 11 For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth; *
so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.
- 12 Look how wide also the east is from the west; *
so far hath he set our sins from us.
- 13 Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children; *
even so is the LORD merciful unto them that fear him.
- 14 For he knoweth whereof we are made; *
he remembereth that we are but dust.

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the 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.

Psalm 103:15-22 *Benedic, anima mea*

- 15 The days of man are but as grass; *
for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.
- 16 For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone; *
and the place thereof shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endureth for ever and ever
upon them that fear him; *
and his righteousness upon children's children;
- 18 Even upon such as keep his covenant, *
and think upon his commandments to do them.
- 19 The LORD hath prepared his seat in heaven, *
and his kingdom ruleth over all.
- 20 O praise the LORD, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength; *
ye that fulfil his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his word.
- 21 O praise the LORD, all ye his hosts; *
ye servants of his that do his pleasure.
- 22 O speak good of the LORD,
all ye works of his, in all places of his dominion: *
praise thou the LORD, O my soul.

Hymn 782 (*Wonder, Love, and Praise*) *Abbot's Leigh*

1 Gracious Spirit, give your servants joy to set sin's captives free,
hope to heal the brokenhearted, peace to share love's liberty.
Through us bring your balm of gladness to the wounded and oppressed;
help us claim and show God's favor as a people called and blessed.

2 Word made flesh, who gave up glory to become our great high priest,
taking on our human nature to redeem the last and least:
let your courage and compassion shape and guide our ministries;
as our Savior and our Shepherd, lead us to the truth that frees.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew. [6:1-6,16-21]

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 be to thee, O Christ.

3 Loving God, who birthed creation from the nothingness of space,
kindling life where all was empty, turning chaos into grace:
when we feel confused and fruitless, dawn upon our restless night;
give us faith's imagination, hope's renewing, love's delight.

4 Triune God, eternal Being, never ending, unbegun,
boundless grace and perfect justice, righteous and forgiving One:
so enfold us in your mercy that our wills and yours unite;
through us may the world behold you, find your love, your truth, your light.

The Sermon

The Reverend Michael Long

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

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. The Celebrant says the following prayer, adapted from the prayer for the imposition of ashes.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that our reflections this evening may be to us a reminder of our mortality and penitence. Grant 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 following words are said when ashes are to be imposed and are just as fitting in the absence of ashes.

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

The following Psalm is then said by all.

Psalm 51 *Miserere mei, Deus.*

- 1 Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness; *
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, * and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults, * and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; *
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou shalt judge.
- 5 Behold, I was shapen in wickedness, * and in sin hath my mother conceived me.
- 6 But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts, *
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.
- 7 Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; *
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
- 9 Turn thy face from my sins, * and put out all my misdeeds.
- 10 Make me a clean heart, O God, * and renew a right spirit within me.
- 11 Cast me not away from thy presence, * and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
- 12 O give me the comfort of thy help again, * and stablish me with thy free Spirit.
- 13 Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, * and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
- 14 Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health; *
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.
- 15 Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord, * and my mouth shall show thy praise.
- 16 For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee; *
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.
- 17 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.
- 18 O be favourable and gracious unto Sion; * build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness,
with the burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

Litany of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together

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.

The Celebrant continues

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy,
and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord..

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

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,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Priest 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 following prayers for Peace, taken from the Book of Common Prayers, are offered especially with the invasion of Ukraine in mind

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with thy wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility thy dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen*

The Celebrant then says

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

People and Celebrant

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 Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit

The Peace is then exchanged.

Solemn Prayer *in place of a blessing during Lent*

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.

Dismissal *The People respond:* Thanks be to God.