

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE (March 5, 2025)

PRELUDE

INVITATION

Beloved in the Lord: We are now gathered for our Ash Wednesday Service and, together, let us mark the beginning of the Lenten Season in our church calendar. Every year we celebrate our Christian Passover through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Lent is a time provided by the Church, which from ancient times was a period for the preparation of candidates for baptism. It is also a period for the whole Church to prepare for this celebration through repentance and renewal of faith, and receiving the mercy and forgiveness of God.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole. Let us therefore observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

OPENING HYMN

#108 – “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

“奇異恩典”

- 1 奇妙恩典何等甘甜，
我罪得着赦免，
前我失迷今已轉回，
瞎眼今得看見。
- 2 這樣恩典實在寶貴，
我心可得安慰，
初信的時就蒙恩惠，
今我誠心敬畏。
- 3 經過許多試煉羅網，
安然得着釋放，
靠主恩典引導我行，
有祢我全無驚。
- 4 將來被主接納上天，
居住在主身邊，
喜樂頌讚主恩齊備，
讚美到萬萬年。

COLLECT

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Almighty 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, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain from 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 READINGS

Officiant: Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe: You love Your people, and have given us the words of eternal life.

People: O Lord, the God of our salvation: Your Word is the light of our lives, and the lantern of our feet. Teach us and lead us with the light of Your eternal Word.

Officiant: Please be **SEATED** to hear from the Word of God.

OT: **Isaiah 58:1-12**

Epistle: **2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10**

After each Reading, the Reader may say The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Antem – “All We Like Sheep”

Verse 1

All we like sheep have gone astray,
we've turned everyone to our own way,
and God laid all our iniquities on Him.
Like a lamb they led Him out
yet He opened not His mouth,
and His precious blood poured out an offering for sin.

Chorus

He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquity,
Our punishment was upon Him,
and by His stripes we are healed.

Verse 2

He had no beauty or majesty,
clothed in lowly humanity,
and though we saw Him we could not see the glory of His grace.
But every law was satisfied the moment He laid down His life,
the power of death was destroyed, the price was paid.

Chorus

He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquity,
Our punishment was upon Him,
and by His stripes we are healed.

and by His stripes, we are healed.

THE GOSPEL

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ from **Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

People: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

After the Gospel is read

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

SERMON (*The Rt. Rev. James Boliget*)

THE BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Officiant

We will now have the sign, this reminder, the imposition of ashes. The ashes on our foreheads serve as reminders for us that we are mere dust and that we are wholly dependent on the grace of God, our Creator and redeemer, for our life and salvation. Let us kneel.

The Officiant with the Bishop prepares the ashes on the altar.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

The BISHOP if present, declares the ff:

Almighty and eternal God: You made us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the gift of life. You gave us freedom of will, that we might offer to You our love and service. When we turned away from You and sinned, in righteous judgment You decreed, that we should return to that dust from which You formed us. Yet, O merciful Father, You did not abandon us to death, but in Your compassion sent Jesus Christ to save us. He took our mortal nature

and bore our shame; He went down into the dust for our salvation. From the dust You raised Him again to life, the first fruit and the pledge of a new and redeemed creation.

We pray that our observation of Ash Wednesday would remind us of our mortality and of Your judgment on our sins, and for our resolve to turn to You in true repentance; that in this time of Lent we may be purified and renewed, and rise to newness of life through the power of the resurrection of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 will be seated first. The Officiant gives instructions for the People.

The priest imposes on himself the ash and signs everyone with the cross saying, Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (*The People **KNEEL.***)

Psalm 51

- ¹ Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
Blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin *is* always before me.
- ⁴ Against You, You only, have I sinned,
And done *this* evil in Your sight—
That You may be found just when You speak,
And blameless when You judge.
- ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Make me hear joy and gladness,
That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

- ⁹ Hide Your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit.
- ¹³ *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to You.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
The God of my salvation,
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
- ¹⁶ For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Officiant and People say together

Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to You, to one another, and to the whole community 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.

V 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.

R Have mercy on us, Lord.

V We have been deaf to Your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true disciples of Christ. We have grieved Your Holy Spirit.

R Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

R We confess to You, Lord.

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

R We confess to You, Lord.

V Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than others.

R We confess to You, Lord.

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

R We confess to You, Lord.

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

R We confess to You, Lord.

V 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.

R Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

R Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

R Accept our repentance, Lord.

V Restore us, good Lord, and let Your anger depart from us;

R Hear us, Lord, for Your mercy is great.

V Accomplish in us the work of Your salvation

R That we may show forth Your glory in the world.

V By the life and death of Your Son our Lord,
R Bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

The BISHOP, if present, or 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.*

OFFERTORY

The people SIT for the offertory. The OFFERTORY HYMN will be sung.

#154 - My Faith Looks Up To Thee

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire!
As Thou has died for me,
O may my love to Thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

“心目專向耶穌”

- 1 心目專向耶穌，
跟祂的聖脚步，
行到路尾，
時刻祈禱無停，
罪惡求主赦免，
靠主寶血洗清，
直到成聖。
- 2 我行黑暗迷路，
煩惱纏絆脚步，
願主導路，
黑暗變換做光，
憂悶給我擔當，
勿得離我很遠，
在阮中央。

While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be Thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from Thee aside.

3 靠主渡過今世，
不久死河當過，
進入天家，
彼時我心歡喜，
欣慕與主居住，
與祂結連無離，
平安歡喜。

After the offerings are collected, the people sing

All things come of Thee, O Lord. And of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

The Bishop, when present, may give the benediction.

Threefold amen is sung.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have a meaningful Lent season everyone. May this be a time of renewal for us as we take a step back from our busyness and cares.

- Reminder of our Sunday services
- Reminder of our daily prayer manual: can download from our website.

May we all have a meaningful Lenten season with the Lord. Let us rise for our closing song.

CLOSING HYMN

“替我打破石磐身”

36 “Rock Of Ages, Cleft for Me”

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed;
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

1 替我打破石磐身，
使我匿在祢內面，
祢受鎗戳脅下開，
傷口流出血和水；
兩項功效我皆愛，
赦罪洗心除惡事。

Not the labours of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone,
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar through tracts unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee. Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

2 我雖盡力來服勞，
豈會守法至一半，
雖然拜主心虔誠，
眼淚直直流無停；
靠這皆莫贖我罪，
只有救主耶穌會。

3 我今空手來親近，
專向十架求大恩，
裸體望祢賜衣裳，
軟弱望祢善培養；
污穢走倚清水邊，
求主洗我皆清潔。

4 或是在世尚度活，
或是臨終性命息，
神魂離開過死河，
看主高坐審判座；
替我打破石磐身，
使我匿在祢內面。阿們。