



ASH WEDNESDAY



*We will glorify God by deepening the roots of our Anglican faith,
and bringing people to new life in Jesus Christ.*



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Rector/Pastor: The Rev. Michael J. Bridge



Processional Song Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days

(Verse 1)

Lord who throughout these forty days
For us did fast and pray
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins
And close by thee to stay

(Verse 2)

As You with Satan didst contend
And didst the victory win
O give us strength in thee to fight
In thee to conquer sin

(Verse 3)

As thou didst hunger, bear and thirst
So teach us gracious Lord

To die to self and chiefly live
By thy most holy word

(Verse 4)

And through these days of penitence
And through thy passion tide
Yea, evermore in life and death
Jesus with us abide

(Verse 5)

Abide with us that so this life
Of suffering over past
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last

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Ash Wednesday page 543

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

Celebrant 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. In this manner, 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 that all Christians continually have to renew our 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 alms-giving; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And to make a right beginning, let us now pray for grace, that we may faithfully keep this Lent.

The Officiant and people kneel. A period of silent prayer follows.

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.**

Old Testament Isaiah 58:1-12

Lector: A Reading from the book of Isaiah.

¹“Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God. ³‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the

homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, ¹⁰ if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. ¹¹ And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. ¹² And 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 dwell in.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Psalm 103:8-14

Lector: We will read from Psalm 103 in unison.

⁸ The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, long-suffering and of great goodness.

⁹ He will not always chide us, neither will he keep his anger for ever.

¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his mercy also toward those who fear him.

¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far has he set our sins from us.

¹³ As a father pities his own children, so is the LORD merciful to those who fear him.

¹⁴ For he knows whereof we are made; he remembers that we are but dust.

New Testament 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Lector: A Reading from 2 Corinthians.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. 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.

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

¹ "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. ² "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. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵"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. ⁶But 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. ¹⁶"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.

Celebrant: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon The Rev. Michael J. Bridge

Penitential Psalm and Imposition of Ashes *page 545*

Celebrant: Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

Almighty God, you have created us from the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be for us a symbol of our mortality and a sign of our penitence, that we may remember that it is by your grace alone that we receive the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Then ashes are imposed with the following words

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

All kneel.

Psalm 51 *page 546* ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against 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. ⁶Behold, 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. ⁸Let 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. ¹⁰Create 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. ¹²Restore 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. ¹⁴Deliver 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁸Do 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.

Confession, Litany of Penitence and Absolution page 547 - 550

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Silence may follow. The Officiant and People together, all kneeling, pray

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, through our own fault 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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. 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.

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience; for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy of our lives; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of those we think more fortunate than ourselves; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment; for all lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people, and our failure to give of ourselves in love; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For our dishonesty in daily life and work, our ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure to heed your call; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt of others, and for all uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For our negligence in prayer and worship; for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of God; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant For our failure to commend the faith that is in us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

All then pray

All Show favor to your people, O Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath you remember mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare us; in the multitude of your mercies, look upon us and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, desires not the death of sinners, but that they may turn from their wickedness and live. He has empowered and commanded his ministers to pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all who truly repent and genuinely believe his holy Gospel. For this reason, we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that our present deeds may please him, the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Comfortable Words *page 550*

Officiant Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.
God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

The Peace *Please stand*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Please greet one another

The Sacrament of Holy Communion *page 115 (153)*

Please remain standing, if you are able to do so.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

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: It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; you bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

Prayer of Consecration *page 116-117*

Celebrant: All praise and glory is yours, O God our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption. He made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and he instituted, and in his Holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

So now, O merciful Father, in your great goodness, we ask you to bless and sanctify, with your Word and Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, that we, receiving them according to your Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

For on the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Therefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of your dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we your humble servants celebrate and make here before your divine Majesty, with these holy gifts, the memorial your Son commanded us to make; remembering his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and his promise to come again.

And we earnestly desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; asking you to grant that, by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his Blood, we and your whole Church may obtain forgiveness of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present to you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice. We humbly pray that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, be filled with your grace and heavenly benediction, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, because of our many sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we ask you to accept this duty and service we owe, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *Prayed together page 118*

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

Minister: Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed, once for all upon the cross.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Holy Communion *page 119*

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. *John 1:29, Revelation 19:9*

We invite all baptized Christians to join in Holy Communion. The ushers will guide you forward where you may receive Communion. The celebrant will offer you bread then a chalice bearer will offer you wine. Should you prefer not to drink from the cup, you may dip the bread into the chalice. If there is a reason you do not want to take bread or wine, you may remain seated or you are welcome to come to the front, to the left of the Communion service, where a member of our prayer team is available to quietly pray with and for you.

Communion Hymn The Old Rugged Cross *(continued on next page)*

(Verse 1)

On a hill far away Stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross Where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

(chorus)

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

Communion Hymn The Old Rugged Cross *(continued)*

(Verse 2)

Oh the old rugged cross So despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God Left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary

(repeat chorus)

(chorus)

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

(Verse 3)

In the old rugged cross Stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see For 'twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died To pardon and sanctify me
(repeat chorus)

(Verse 4)

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
It's shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day
To my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share (repeat chorus)

Post-Communion Prayer *Prayed together page 120-121*

Let us pray: **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us, through this Sacrament, of your favor and goodness towards us: that we are true members of the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of your everlasting kingdom. And we humbly ask you, heavenly Father, to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all the good works that you have prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The congregation stands for the blessing

Blessing *page 121*

Celebrant: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

The Recessional Lord, Let Me Walk

(Verse 1)

Lord, let me walk that lonely road with you
Under the weight of the wood
Lord, let me walk that last mile in your shoes
Under the weight of that wood

(chorus)

*Freedom can be found, laden down
Under the weight of the wood*

(Verse 2)

Lord, let me cool your lips baked like clay
Under the weight of the wood
Dried up like rain on a hot dusty day
Under the weight of that wood
(repeat chorus)

(Verse 3)

They gave you all and sour wine for your food
Under the weight of the wood
Father, forgive them;
they don't know what they do
Under the weight of that wood
(repeat chorus)

(Verse 4)

Lord, must the journey always end this way
Under the weight of the wood
How many times have we nailed you up today
Under the weight of that wood
(repeat chorus)

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The Dismissal *page 122*

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.