



# ASH WEDNESDAY

EARLY MORNING SERVICE



**The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd**

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Sat. Service @ 5 PM • Sunday Services @ 8 & 10 AM • Wed. Service @ 10 AM

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## WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

If you are new to our congregation, please let us know by filling out a newcomer card in the pew pocket and putting it in the collection plate

We have gluten-free wafers available: please make your request known at the altar rail.

Our historic building has limited plumbing. Restrooms are located across the breezeway; go up the passageway between the buildings and turn right.

Presider/  Deacon/  Lector/  Congregation/  All

## INTRODUCTION

☞ Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent with ash on our foreheads. This cross is an echo of our baptismal anointing, when we were buried with Christ. The ash is a chilling reminder of our mortality, but because our death is now in Christ, our endings are beginnings. The Lenten disciplines of acts of kindness, prayer and fasting are tools of discipleship that can lead us to renewal as we bury all that is holding us back, and repent – turn – to follow Christ into becoming more fully alive.

☞ Let us pray . . . . Grant, O Lord God, to all who have been baptized into the death and death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

☞ **Amen.**

## PSALM: Psalm 51:1-18

*Please stand.*

℣ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

☞ **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

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

☞ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

℣ And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

☞ **Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.**

℣ For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

☞ **Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

℣ Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

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

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

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

℣ Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

☞ **I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.**

℣ Deliver me from death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

☞ **Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

℣ Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

☞ **The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

## EXHORTATION

- ☐ Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with the divine, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Our sin grieves our Father, who does not desire us to come under his condemnation, but have abundant life. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to make our priorities and purposes those of loving God, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and loving life on this planet in all its richness and diversity. Honesty, fasting, prayer, study and good works are tools we are given for the work of fostering our spiritual growth and revitalizing our discipleship. With the promise of the power of the Holy Spirit accompanying us in this Lenten journey, I invite you now to take the first steps towards Easter joy. To begin our pilgrimage, we admit the failures of our past and commit to the challenge of renewing of our faith, beginning with a time of silence for reflection and preparation.

### Litany of Lenten Pilgrimage

*Please kneel, stand or sit, as you choose.*

- ☐ Let us pray . . . Most holy and merciful God:
- Ⓐ **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have not yet fully learned how to follow Christ in our own day and place and way. In this pilgrimage of Lent, we seek not only sooty ashes, but revealing light; not only sincere regret, but energizing purpose. Your Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness where, in the face of choices and temptations, he crystallized his mission of proclaiming your Reign with his life. Let your Spirit inspire us to follow him, to discern how we each can live and love as Christ taught, so we may fulfill the mission you have prepared for each one of us:**
- ☐ Have mercy on our past sins, and give us the strength to follow Christ with all that we are, and all that we have.
- Ⓒ **Renew us so that we love you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and forgiving others, as we have been forgiven.**
- ☐ Have mercy on our past sins, and help us to empty ourselves of remorse and regret.
- Ⓒ **Renew us so that, being true to the mind of Christ, we serve others as Christ served us and do what is pleasing to your Holy Spirit.**
- ☐ Have mercy on our past sins, and give us an awareness of how our faith can and should affect every moment and aspect of our lives.
- Ⓒ **Renew us so that we are humble, patient, and act with integrity, using the values and promises of the Reign of God as the foundation of every decision, action or abstention.**
- ☐ Have mercy on our past sins, and make us faithful stewards of our resources.
- Ⓒ **Renew us so that we satisfy our appetites and desires in ways that honor our own bodies, your creation, and the lives of others.**
- ☐ Have mercy on our past sins, and give us the vision and imagination we need to see the difference we can make in the world for your sake.
- Ⓒ **Renew us so that we claim the gifts you have given us, are grateful for whatever we are able to accomplish, and rejoice when others receive abundance.**
- ☐ Have mercy on our past sins, and give us the grace to enjoy life in ways that honor you.
- Ⓒ **Renew us so that we enjoy worldly goods and comforts in moderation, and are honest in our daily life and work.**

- Ⓟ Have mercy on our past sins, and give us the courage to find ways to tell our stories of your presence in our lives.
- ☞ **Renew us so that we give our hearts fully in prayer and worship, and commend to others the faith that is in us.**
- Ⓟ Have mercy on our past sins, and give us the eyes of the prophets, who learned to see how you created the world to be in the first place, without human sin devastating it.
- ☞ **Renew us so that we do not flinch from seeing the human need and suffering around us, and are courageous agents of justice and compassion.**
- Ⓟ Have mercy on our past sins, and strengthen us to love our enemies and serve those who make us uncomfortable.
- ☞ **Renew us so that we regard others as equal to ourselves, by think charitably toward our neighbors, and seek to understand and appreciate those who differ from us.**
- Ⓟ Have mercy on our past sins, and grant us the wisdom to understand the impact of our actions on our children's children's children.
- ☞ **Renew us so that we conserve and heal your creation for the sake of those who come after us.**
- Ⓟ Let your grace restore us, good Lord, and let your Spirit inspire 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.**

#### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Please be seated. The following prayer is said over the ashes to be used:*

- Ⓟ Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be a sign to us of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that by your gracious gift we are given everlasting life.
- ☞ **Amen.**

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward.*

*The ministers apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:*

- Ⓟ Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
- ☞ **Amen.**

#### PRAYER FOR THE JOURNEY

*Please stand*

- Ⓟ Let us pray, Almighty and everliving God . . .
- ☞ **you hate nothing you have made and you forgive all who are penitent. During these forty days and forty nights, create in us new and honest hearts that deeply repent of the sins of our past. Prepare us to be restored to you in full pardon and forgiveness on the joyous day when we proclaim that our Lord is risen indeed, and has trampled sin and death underfoot forever. We pray for courage and strength to spend this Lenten season walking ever more closely with Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tested in every way as we are, yet did not sin. Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

*Please be seated.*

**THE READINGS:** Micah 6:6-8 • Philippians 2:12-16a • Luke 4:1-13

### THE FIRST READING

**L** *A reading from the Prophet Micah:*

With what should I approach the Lord and bow down before God on high? Should I come before him with entirely burned offerings, with year-old calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with many torrents of oil? Should I give my oldest child for my crime; the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit? He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

**L** The Holy Spirit still speaks to the Church.

**G** **Let the Church give thanks to God.**

### THE SECOND READING

**L** *A reading from the Letter to the Philippians:*

Therefore, my loved ones, just as you always obey me, not just when I am present but now even more while I am away, carry out your own salvation with fear and trembling. God is the one who enables you both to want and to actually live out his good purposes. Do everything without grumbling and arguing so that you may be blameless and pure, innocent children of God surrounded by people who are crooked and corrupt. Among these people you shine like stars in the world because you hold on to the word of life.

**P** The Holy Spirit still speaks to the Church.

**G** **Let the Church give thanks to God.**

### THE GOSPEL

*Please stand.*

**D** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, in the 4th chapter.

**G** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. The devil said to him, "Since you are God's Son, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."

Jesus replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread.*"

Next the devil led him to a high place and showed him in a single instant all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said, "I will give you this whole domain and the glory of all these kingdoms. It's been entrusted to me and I can give it to anyone I want. Therefore, if you will worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered, "It's written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*"

The devil brought him into Jerusalem and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here; for it's written: *He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone.*"

Jesus answered, "It's been said, *Don't test the Lord your God.*" After finishing every temptation, the devil departed from him until the next opportunity.

**D** This is the Good News of Christ.

**G** **Praise to Jesus, the Living Word.**

## SERMON

*Please be seated.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

☞ Let us affirm our baptismal faith, using the Apostles' Creed:

**We believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please stand, kneel, or sit, as you choose.*

☞ Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

☞ Lord Jesus, we pray for your church around the world. Heal the divisions among those who call on your name, so that in spite of our differences we may be a powerful witness to your self-giving love.

☞ **Renew us, that we may share your mercy and grace.**

☞ Good Shepherd, we pray for leaders all around the globe, including those who set public policy, those who guide people, and those who serve in the armed forces. Help our leaders to care for the least among us, the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the poor, the sick and those in prison.

☞ **Renew us, that we may learn your justice and peace.**

☞ Great Physician, comfort, soothe and bless those who endure sickness, grief or trouble. We pray especially for [*read names in notebook*] and for those we name, aloud or silently [*leave time...*]. We ask that all your children be kept safe from harm.

☞ **Renew us, that we may never weary of reaching out to help those who suffer.**

☞ Eternal God, bless and receive home those who have died [*especially . . . read names in notebook.*] We pray for those who have died in political violence around the world.

☞ **Renew us, that we may have the compassion to weep with those who weep.**

☞ Giver of all Good Gifts, we give you our deep thanks for the good things of this life: the flowers given today [*to the Glory of God; in memory of; in honor of . . .*]; for people who have reached out to us when we were hungry, thirsty, lonely, afraid, sick or in one of life's many prisons, [*and for read blessings in notebook . . .*] We ask you to bless all who are worshipping with us for the first time this month.

☞ **Renew us, that we may be a blessing to this world.**

☞ Creating God, fill us with your Holy Spirit.

☞ **Blessed are you, God of growth and discovery; yours is the inspiration that has altered and changed our lives; yours is the power that has brought us to new dangers and opportunities. Set us, your new creation, to walk through this new world, watching and learning, loving and trusting, until your kingdom comes. Amen.**

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

*Please stand.*

- ℣ The peace of the Lord be always with you.
- ☩ **And also with you.** (All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.)

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE OFFERING

- ℣ Walk in love, as Christ loves us, an offering and a sacrifice to God. Bring your tithes, gifts and offerings with gladness.  
*Please be seated. When the offering is brought forward and placed on the altar, please stand.*

- ℣ All things come from thee, O Lord;
- ☩ **and of thine own have we given thee.**

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ℣ The Lord be with you
- ☩ **And also with you.**
- ℣ Lift up your hearts
- ☩ **We lift them to the Lord**
- ℣ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
- ☩ **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

- ℣ It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

- ☩ ***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.***

- ℣ Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

- ☩ **Amen. Come Holy Spirit.**

- ℣ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Now, together, we, his disciples, proclaim the mystery of faith:

- ☩ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☐ Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Let the strength and love of the one who gave himself for us accompany us in our journey through the wilderness of sin and temptation.

☑ **Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

☐ Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

☑ **AMEN.**

☐ As our Lord Jesus taught us, we now pray together:

☑ **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.**

☐ Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

☑ **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Please be seated.*

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Please stand or kneel, as you choose.*

☐ Let us pray together:

☑ **Giving God, in this holy meal you assure us that you are always with us, inspiring us to repent, to turn towards you and be renewed through your work in us, and the work we do that gives glory to you. In our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, study and works of love, may we enter this time of pilgrimage, seeking that abundant life promised by your son, Jesus. We rejoice that your Word, your Spirit and your Supper give us strength for this journey. Amen.**

#### **BENEDICTION**

*Please stand.*

☐ The God who formed us in love also renews us through grace and strengthens us to become his disciples. May God, the Father, the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit, bless you this day and throughout these forty days.

☑ **Amen.**

#### **DISMISSAL**

☐ Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**