

Ash Wednesday
February 26, 2020 Early Service
Holy Communion



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Services: Sunday - 8 and 10 AM • Wednesday - 10 AM • Saturday - 5 PM

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD

If you are new to our congregation: Please let us know by completing a newcomer card from the pew rack in front of you.

Restrooms: Handicap-accessible restrooms are located to the right as you go up the ramp through the archway across from the doors of the sanctuary.

We have gluten-free wafers available: Please tell us when you come to the altar rail.

A gentle reminder: please silence your mobile phone before the service.

Symbols used: P Presider/ D Deacon/ L Lector/ C Congregation/ A All

INTRODUCTION

GATHERING PRAYER

P We pray for our life as a church community sharing God's signs of life:

A **Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P 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 into becoming more fully alive, living as God intends us to live. We are called during Lent to repent – to change our hearts and lives and follow Christ. I invite you to begin this journey by joining in Psalm 51.

[Please stand.]

PSALM 51:1–18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXHORTATION

- P** Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his 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 to use to find more and more ways of proclaiming the Reign of God in and with our lives. I invite you now to take the first steps of our journey towards Easter joy. To begin our pilgrimage, we admit the failures of our past and seek the to live as God intends us to live.

Silence for reflection and self-examination precedes the Litany.

LITANY OF LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

[Please kneel, stand or sit, as you choose.]

- AI** **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 do not yet follow Christ as fully as we can. 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 see how you call each of us to share in the common life your one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.**
- P** Have mercy on our past sins, and give us the strength to follow Christ with all that we are, and all that we have.
- C** **Bring us all to be of one heart and mind in Christ; Help us to love you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to forgive others, as we have been forgiven.**
- P** Have mercy on our past sins, and fill us with the courage to find ways to tell our stories of your presence in our lives.
- C** **Bring us all to be of one heart and mind in Christ; Help us to worship joyfully by giving our hearts fully to you in prayer, and gently commending to others the faith that is in us.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Bring us all to be of one heart and mind in Christ; Help us to personally encounter human need and suffering, and to be agents of justice and compassion by sharing generously.**
- P** Have mercy on our past sins, and strengthen us to love our enemies and serve those who make us uncomfortable.
- C** **Bring us all to be of one heart and mind in Christ; Help us to respect all by considering others as equal to ourselves, by thinking charitably toward our neighbors, and seeking to understand and appreciate those who differ from us.**
- P** Have mercy on our past sins, freeing us to empty ourselves of remorse and regret.

- ☞ Bring us all to be of one heart and mind in Christ: Help us to nurture every spirit by serving others as Christ served us, to be true to the mind of Christ, and to please your Holy Spirit.**
- ℙ** Have mercy on our past sins, and give us insight as to how our faith can and should affect every moment and aspect of our lives.
- ☞ Bring us all to be of one heart and mind in Christ; Help us to live humbly, patiently and with integrity, using the values and promises of the Reign of God as the foundation of every decision, action or abstention.**
- ℙ** Have mercy on our past sins, and make us faithful stewards of our resources.
- ☞ Bring us all to be of one heart and mind in Christ; Help us to satisfy our appetites and desires in ways that honor our own bodies, your creation, and the lives of others.**
- ℙ** 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.
- ☞ Bring us all to be of one heart and mind in Christ; Help us to claim the gifts you have given us, being grateful for whatever we are able to accomplish, and rejoicing when others receive abundance.**
- ℙ** Have mercy on our past sins, and give us the grace to enjoy life in ways that honor you.
- ☞ Bring us all to be of one heart and mind in Christ; Help us to enjoy worldly goods and comforts in moderation, and to be honest in our daily life and work.**
- ℙ** 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.
- ☞ Bring us all to be of one heart and mind in Christ; Help us to conserve and restore your creation, holding it in trust for those who come after us, until all creation thrives in your love.**
- ℙ** Let your grace restore us, good Lord, and let your Spirit inspire us;
- ☞ Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**
- ℙ** Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
- ☞ That we may show forth your glory in the world.**
- ℙ** 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:]

- ℙ** 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:]

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

[During the imposition of ashes, please sing the hymn; repeat, as necessary, until everyone has received them.]

PRAYER FOR THE JOURNEY

[*Please stand.*]

☐ Let us pray together:

☑ **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.**

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-8 [*Portions*]

[*Please be seated.*]

☐ All the people gathered together in the area in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Instruction scroll from Moses, according to which the Lord had instructed Israel.

Facing the area in front of the Water Gate, he read it aloud, from early morning until the middle of the day. He read it in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and everyone listened attentively to the Instruction scroll.

The Levites helped the people to understand the Instruction while the people remained in their places. They read aloud from the scroll, the Instruction from God, explaining and interpreting it so the people could understand what they heard.

☐ The Holy Spirit still speaks to the Church.

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

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-19, 27-28, 31a

☐ Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. Certainly the body isn't one part but many. If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body?

You are the body of Christ and parts of each other. In the church, God has appointed first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, the ability to help others, leadership skills, different kinds of tongues.

Use your ambition to try to get the greater gifts.

☐ The Holy Spirit still speaks to the Church.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-25

D The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, beginning in the 16th chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

D Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. I tell you that you are Peter. And I’ll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won’t be able to stand against it. I’ll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.” Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: “God forbid, Lord! This won’t happen to you.” But he turned to Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them.

D This is the Good News of Christ.

G Praise to Jesus, the Living Word.

SERMON

[Please be seated.]

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P Let us affirm our baptismal faith, using the Apostles’ Creed:

G 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

D Let us pray for each other and the world, as we take on the Lenten disciplines that help us repent and renew our commitment to Christ.

L Deliver us and all your people, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

G Lord, hear our prayer.

L Open all hearts to your grace and truth.

G Lord, hear our prayer.

- ℒ Fill us and all your people with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
- ☩ **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- ℒ Keep us and all your people in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
- ☩ **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- ℒ Teach us and all of us to love others in the power of the Spirit.
- ☩ **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- ℒ Send us and all of us into the world in witness to your love.
- ☩ **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- ℒ Bring us and all your people to the fullness of your peace and glory.
- ☩ **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- ℒ Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever.
- ☩ **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 AND PRESENTATION

- ℘ 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. If this is your first time worshiping with us, please let your offering be only the completed blue guest card, and let this service be our gift to you.]

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

- ℘ 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 our 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.**

[Please kneel or stand, as you choose.]

- ℘ Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

- Ⓟ He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.
- Ⓟ On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
- Ⓟ After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: 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 for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
- ☩ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.**
- Ⓟ All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**
- Ⓟ And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
- ☩ **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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

[Please stand or kneel, as you choose.]

- Ⓟ Let us pray together:
- ☩ **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen..**

BENEDICTION

[Please stand.]

- Ⓟ Our Triune God gives us the signs of life, equipping, empowering, and strengthening us to become disciples of Christ Jesus. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, bless you today and throughout these forty days.
- ☩ **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

- Ⓟ Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**