



**Ash Wednesday**  
**Imposition of Ashes and Children's Liturgy**  
**February 17, 2021**  
**6:00 pm**

**HYMN:** *Ashes*

## **Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

God of mercy, you love everything that you have made. You forgive the sins of all who are truly sorry. Make our hearts clean, that we will tell you what we have done wrong. We know that you will heal us, forgive us, and bless us; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

***Amen.***

## **A Reading from 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:10**

<sup>20</sup>So we have been sent to speak for Christ. It is as if God is calling to you through us. We speak for Christ when we beg you to be at peace with God. <sup>21</sup>Christ had no sin. But God made him become sin. God did this for us so that in Christ we could become right with God.

We are workers together with God. So we beg you: Do not let the grace that you received from God be for nothing. <sup>2</sup>God says,

“I heard your prayers at the right time,  
and I gave you help on the day of salvation.” *Isaiah 49:8*

I tell you that the “right time” is now. The “day of salvation” is now. <sup>3</sup>We do not want anyone to find anything wrong with our work. So we do nothing that will be a problem for anyone. <sup>4</sup>But in every way we show that we are servants of God: in accepting many hard things, in troubles, in difficulties, and in great problems. <sup>5</sup>We are beaten and thrown into prison. People become upset and fight us. We work hard, and sometimes we get no sleep or food. <sup>6</sup>We show that we are servants of God by living a pure life, by our understanding, by our patience, and by our kindness. We show this by the Holy Spirit, by true love, <sup>7</sup>by speaking the truth, and by God’s power. We use our right living to defend ourselves against everything. <sup>8</sup>Some people honor us, but other people shame us. Some people say good things about us, but

other people say bad things. Some people say we are liars, but we speak the truth. <sup>9</sup>We are not known, but we are well-known. We seem to be dying, but look—we continue to live. We are punished, but we are not killed. <sup>10</sup>We have much sadness, but we are always rejoicing. We are poor, but we are making many people rich in faith. We have nothing, but really we have everything.

The Word of the Lord.

People        ***Thanks be to God.***

## **Psalm** – Psalm 51:1-18

- 1    ***God, be merciful to me because you are loving.  
Because you are always ready to be merciful,  
wipe out all my wrongs.***
- 2    ***Wash away all my guilt and make me clean again.***
- 3    ***I know about my wrongs.  
I can't forget my sin.***
- 4    ***You are the one I have sinned against.  
I have done what you say is wrong.  
So you are right when you speak.  
You are fair when you judge me.***
- 5    ***I was brought into this world in sin.  
In sin my mother gave birth to me.***
- 6    ***You want me to be completely truthful.  
So teach me wisdom.***
- 7    ***Take away my sin, and I will be clean.  
Wash me, and I will be clean from my sin.***
- 8    ***Make me hear sounds of joy and gladness.  
Let the bones you crushed be happy again.***
- 9    ***Turn your face from my sins.  
Wipe out all my guilt.***
- 10    ***Create in me a pure heart, God.  
Make my spirit right again.***
- 11    ***Do not send me away from you.  
Do not take your Holy Spirit away from me.***

- <sup>12</sup> ***Give me back the joy that comes when you save me.  
Keep me strong by giving me a willing spirit.***
- <sup>13</sup> ***Then I will teach your ways to those who do wrong.  
And sinners will turn back to you.***
- <sup>14</sup> ***God, save me from the guilt of murder.  
God, you are the one who saves me.  
I will sing about your goodness.***
- <sup>15</sup> ***Lord, let me speak so I may praise you.***
- <sup>16</sup> ***You are not pleased by sacrifices.  
Otherwise, I would give them.  
You don't want burnt offerings.***
- <sup>17</sup> ***The sacrifice God wants is a willing spirit.  
God, you will not reject  
a heart that is broken and sorry for its sin.***

## **Holy Gospel** - Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

"Be careful! When you do good things, don't do them in front of people to be seen by them. If you do that, then you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> "When you give to the poor, don't be like the hypocrites. They blow trumpets before they give so that people will see them. They do that in the synagogues and on the streets. They want other people to honor them. I tell you the truth. Those hypocrites already have their full reward. <sup>3</sup> So when you give to the poor, give very secretly. Don't let anyone know what you are doing. <sup>4</sup> Your giving should be done in secret. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you.

<sup>5</sup> "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites. They love to stand in the synagogues and on the street corners and pray loudly. They want people to see them pray. I tell you the truth. They already have their full reward. <sup>6</sup> When you pray, you should go into your room and close the door. Then pray to your Father who cannot be seen. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you.

<sup>16</sup> "When you give up eating, <sup>[a]</sup> don't put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They make

their faces look strange to show people that they are giving up eating. I tell you the truth, those hypocrites already have their full reward. <sup>17</sup> So when you give up eating, comb your hair and wash your face. <sup>18</sup> Then people will not know that you are giving up eating. But your Father, whom you cannot see, will see you. Your Father sees what is done in secret, and he will reward you.

<sup>19</sup> "Don't store treasures for yourselves here on earth. Moths and rust will destroy treasures here on earth. And thieves can break into your house and steal the things you have. <sup>20</sup> So store your treasure in heaven. The treasures in heaven cannot be destroyed by moths or rust. And thieves cannot break in and steal that treasure. <sup>21</sup> Your heart will be where your treasure is.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Children's Sermon – Looking into Lent**

### **Invitation to a Holy Lent**

*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.*

## **Blessing and Imposition of Ashes**

*The Celebrant then says*

Almighty God, you created us out of the dust of the earth, and we are your people. Let these ashes be a sign that we belong to you, and because you love us, you have made us forever yours, on earth and in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

*The ashes are imposed with the following words*

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

## **A Prayer from Psalm 51**

*The Celebrant and People all kneeling or standing then say*

***Jesus, please listen to my cries; I must tell you my secret;  
sometimes I do what is wrong even though I know what is right.***

***I feel guilty, as if I'm covered in mud.***

***It's hard to tell you everything, but I'm glad that I do.***

***Your forgiveness is like a bath – all the dirt gets washed off,  
and I am squeaky clean.***

***What a relief to let go of secrets and let in your love –  
a forever-love that smells so sweet and never fades.***

## **Litany of Penitence**

*The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling or standing*

We thank you, Lord, that you love us and hear us when we pray. When we are happy, or when we are sad, when we pray to you with thanksgiving, or when we pray to you with our confessions, we know that you hear us when we pray.

For the times when our mistakes have hurt you, or hurt others.

***Lord, hear us as we pray.***

For the times we have not loved you or others as much as we could

***Lord, hear us as we pray.***

For the times we have not helped others as Jesus helped us

***Lord, hear us as we pray.***

For the times we have been impatient

***Lord, hear us as we pray.***

For the times we have been angry

***Lord, hear us as we pray.***

For the times we have been jealous of others

***Lord, hear us as we pray.***

For the times we have spoken words that are untrue

***Lord, hear us as we pray.***

For the times we have forgotten to pray

***We are sorry, Lord.***

Hear us and help us, Lord. Work through us so that we can share your goodness and love in the world.

Show us the joy and new life that Jesus brings. Thank you, Lord for loving us.

***Help us to love one another.***

## **Closing Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time to come to you with our prayers and petitions, and you have promised through your beloved Son, Jesus, that when two or three gather together in His name you will be with them. Fulfill now, O Lord, our prayers as they may be best for us. Help us to know your truth, Lord, in this world, and grant us life everlasting in the age to come. ***Amen.***

## **Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

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