

ASH WEDNESDAY



Wednesday 22 February 2023 • 7:00 PM
Grace Episcopal Church, Hinsdale, IL

GATHERING TOGETHER

All stand as the ministers enter in silence.

THE ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation:
People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Presider 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.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—
a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for reflection is kept.

Response



- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us,
nor 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. *Response*
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us. *Response*
- 13 As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust. *Response*

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with

the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for reflection is kept.

All stand for the Sequence Hymn.

SEQUENCE HYMN

“Kind Maker of the World, O Hear”

A LA VENUE DE NOËL



1 Kind Ma - ker of the world, O hear
 2 Each heart is man - i - fest to thee;
 3 Spare us, O Lord, who now con - fess
 4 Give us the dis - ci - pline that springs
 5 Grant, O thou bless - ed Trin - i - ty;



the fer - vent prayer, with man - y a tear poured forth by all the
 thou know - est our in - fir - mi - ty; now we re - pent, and
 our sins and all our wick - ed - ness, and, for the glo - ry
 from ab - sti - nence in out - ward things with in - ward fast - ing,
 grant, O un - chang - ing U - ni - ty; that this our fast of



pen - i - tent who keep this ho - ly fast of Lent!
 seek thy face; grant un - to us thy par - doning grace.
 of thy Name, our weak - ened souls to health re - claim.
 so that we in heart and soul may dwell with thee.
 for - ty days may work our pro - fit and thy praise!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Preacher The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever 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.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Preacher The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

REFLECTION

Chris Pierce

After the reflection, the presider invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent.

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, all kneeling, as able.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Before ashes are imposed, the presider says the following prayer.

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 ashes are imposed with the following words

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

When the Imposition is concluded, the following psalm is sung.

THE PSALM

Psalm 51

Response



Be mer-ci-ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offense.
O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **Response**

My offenses truly I know them; my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. **Response**

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **Response**

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervor sustain me,
O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. **Response**

Please kneel or stand for the Litany, as able.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

All **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 by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Presider 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.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our exploitation of other people,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration,
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

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,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

For our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from 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.

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.**

The People stand for the Peace.

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Offertory Sentence

*With joy, we give thanks to God for all who support this community of love and faith.
Now more than ever, your gifts truly do continue the mission and ministries of Grace Church.*

*If you wish to give electronically, please scan the QR code
or follow the link to our electronic giving platform.*



<http://www.gracehinsdale.org/give>

Anthem

"Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake" R. Farrant or J. Hilton (16th C.)

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives:
to decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee now and evermore. Amen.

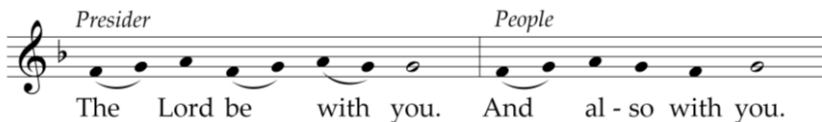
Iona Invitation

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;
You who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time or ever before;
You who have tried to follow and you who have failed;

Come, not because the Church invites you;
It is Christ, and he invites you to meet him here.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Presider Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presider We give thanks to you, O God,
for the goodness and love
which you have made known to us in creation;
in the calling of Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.
For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us,
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, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you,
O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts

that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ
and his Blood of the new Covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we may be acceptable through him,
being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
In the fullness of time,
put all things in subjection under your Christ,
and bring us to that heavenly country where,
with Blessed Mary and all your saints,
we may enter the everlasting heritage
 of your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation.

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.**

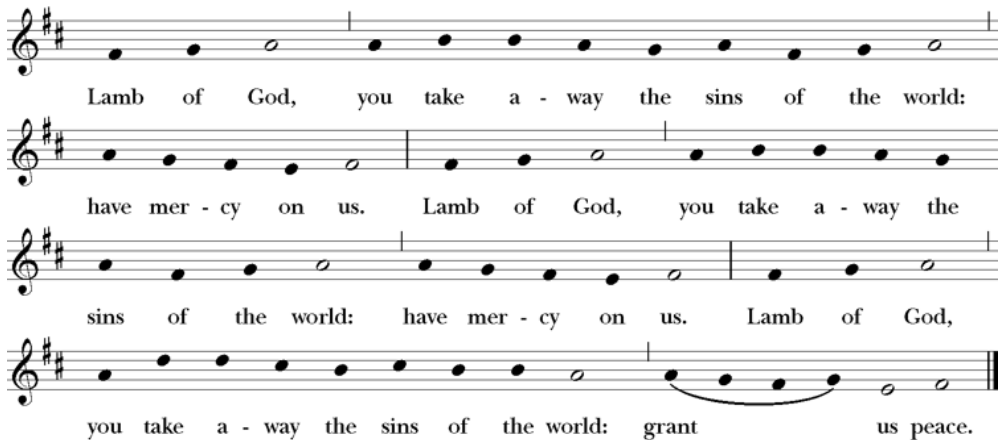
LORD'S PRAYER

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
 hallowed be your 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.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

The bread is broken. Silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Invitation

From a sermon by St. Augustine

Presider Behold what you are;
People **May we become what we receive.**

THE COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive Communion, including children.
Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.
Those who prefer to receive a blessing may cross their arms over their chest.*

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

All **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.**

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Presider Bow down before the Lord.

Grant, most merciful Lord,
to your people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

“Restore in Us, O God”

SOUTHWELL



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love;
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r;
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy;
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace,



re - new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
from fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
bap - tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
that we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

SENT FORTH TO THE WORLD

THE DISMISSAL

After the dismissal, the people respond **Thanks be to God.**

How do we deal with difficult Bible passages when we encounter them?

How do we deal with passages which historically have been used by others to vilify groups of people—passages that may seem to condone exclusion or condemnation of groups we may perceive as “other than us”? Everyone looks at scripture through a lens of some kind—a lens which will subsequently help shape the way they approach a given passage and ultimately interpret it.

We use the Baptismal Covenant as our lens, specifically “to seek and serve Christ in all persons,” and “to strive for justice and peace among all people.” (See the *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 304.) Through the Covenant, we understand how we are called to follow Christ and approach the difficult biblical passages with this knowledge in mind.

Acknowledgements

Psalm 103, from *Gradual Psalms for the RCL*, ed. Bruce E. Ford, Church Publishing, Inc. “Kind Maker of the World, O Hear,” Text: attr. Gregory the Great (540-604); ver. *Hymnal 1940*. Tune: A LA VENUE DE NOËL, melody from *Fleurs de noëls*, 1535. Psalm 51, setting by Michel Guimont (b. 1950), © 1998, 2002, GIA Publications, Inc. “Restore in Us, O God,” Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., (b. 1944), © 1989, Hope Publishing Co. Tune: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalmes of David*, 1579, alt. Scripture texts are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. Music reprinted under OneLicense.net, license # A-720489.

*Welcome to the transformative power
of Christ's love;
if you're here, you belong!*



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