

CHURCH OF THE
REDEEMER

ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2023

CONCERNING THE SERVICE

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent: a time of penitence, fasting and prayer, in preparation for the great Feast of the Resurrection.

The season of Lent began in the earliest days of the Church as a time of preparation for those seeking to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The forty days refer to our Lord's time of fasting in the wilderness; and since Sundays are never fast days, Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Fast.

Throughout the Old Testament, ashes are used as a sign of sorrow and repentance, and Christians have traditionally used the same to indicate sorrow for our own sin, and as a reminder that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Like Adam and Eve, we have disobeyed and rebelled against God, and are under the same judgment, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19b).

As we are marked with ashes in the same manner that we were signed with the cross in Baptism, we are also reminded of the life we share in Jesus Christ, the second Adam (Romans 5:17, 6:4). It is in this sure hope that we begin the journey of these forty days, that by hearing and answering our Savior's call to repent, we may enter fully into the joyful celebration of his resurrection.

Officiant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures for ever.

Officiant: 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.

Please kneel as you are able. A period of silent prayer follows.

Officiant: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you 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.

YOUR WILL BE DONE

Your will be done on earth O Lord

As in heaven.

Grant us patience in times of sorrow

to be obedient in love and suffering O God

Restrain and guide all flesh and blood that act against your will

Your will be done

Your will be done

Fernando Ortega
from the album *The Crucifixion of Jesus*, © 2017

ISAIAH 58:1-12

- 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.
- ² Yet 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.
- ⁴ Behold, 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.
- ⁵ Is 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?
- ⁷ Is 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.

The Holy Bible, ESV

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

PSALM 103:8-14

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
13 As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
14 For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.

Leader and People:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10

^{20b} We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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.

³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

The Holy Bible, ESV.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

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

People: Glory to you Lord Christ

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

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, ²⁰ but 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.

The Holy Bible, ESV

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

HOMILY

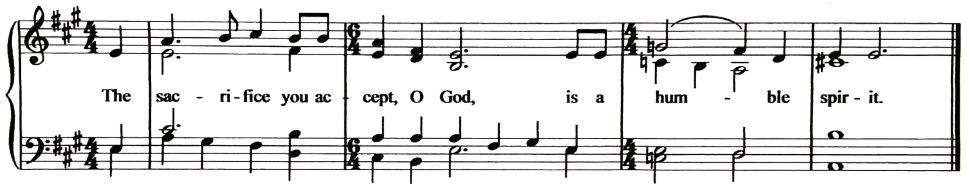
Rev. Chris Peterson



PSALM 51:1-17

David Isele

Refrain:



- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

Refrain

- 4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.
- 5 Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 6 Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
- 7 Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

Refrain

- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Refrain

- 11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 13 Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- 14 Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

Refrain

- 15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

16 For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.

You are not pleased with burnt offering.

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

Refrain

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

CONFESSON AND LITANY OF PENITENCE

You may kneel or sit during the prayer of confession

Deacon: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

People: 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.

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.

Deacon: Lord, have mercy upon us:

People: For we have sinned against you.

Deacon: 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.

*Deacon: 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.

*Deacon: 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.

*Deacon: 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.

*Deacon: 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.

*Deacon: 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.

*Deacon: 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.

*Deacon: 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.

*Deacon: 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.

*Deacon: 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.

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

People: For we have sinned against you.

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

People: For we have sinned against you.

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.

Priest: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with your spirit.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

We will take the next few minutes to offer prayers of intercession and thanksgiving in breakout groups.

THE SOLEMN SEASON CALLS US NOW

Verse 1

The solemn season calls us now
A holy fast to keep;
And see within the temple how
Both priest and people weep.

Verse 2

But come not thou with tears alone,
Or outward form of prayer;
But let it in thy heart be known
That penitence is there.

Chorus

Thy breast to beat, thy clothes to rend,
God asketh not from thee;
Thy stubborn soul he bids thee bend
In true humility.

Verse 3

Oh let us, then, with heartfelt grief,
Draw near unto our God,
And pray to him to grant relief,
And stay the uplifted rod.

Verse 4

O righteous Judge, if thou wilt deign
To grant us all we need,
We pray for time to turn again,
And grace to turn indeed.

Chorus

Verse 5

Blest Three in One, with grief sincere,
To thee we humbly pray,
That fruits of mercy may appear
To bless this fasting-day.

Text: Paris Breviary, Trans. John Chandler, 1806-1876

Music: Paul Calvin, 2012

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart:
that desiring you, we may seek you;
and that seeking you, we may find you;
and that finding you, we may love you;
and that loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have
delivered us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Celebrant: Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves,
take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with
you always. Amen*

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us in worship today. Our regular weekly gathering for worship and discipleship is held at 2120 Lexington Ave N, Roseville, MN US 55113, on Sundays, 4:30 p.m. If you would like to speak with one of our clergy or be added to our weekly email communication, please use this QR code. Thank you!



Today's Preacher - Rev. Chris Peterson

Fr. Chris has been a minister in the Anglican Church since 2007, serving at Church of the Cross (Hopkins, MN) and St Barnabas Church (Covington, KY). He has also served as a hospice chaplain since 2012 and currently ministers with Grace Hospice. Since autumn of 2021, Chris began serving part-time as assisting clergy in our worship services and at Morning Prayer. Chris and his wife, Miriam, live in Maplewood with their two sons.