

The Cathedral Church of St. James

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020 – Choral Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes at 6:30pm



"Ash Wednesday" Karl Spitzweg, c. 1855

Receive this cross of ash upon your brow,
Brought from the burning of Palm Sunday's cross.
The forests of the world are burning now
And you make late repentance for the loss.
But all the trees of God would clap their hands
The very stones themselves would shout and sing
If you could covenant to love these lands
And recognise in Christ their Lord and king.

He sees the slow destruction of those trees,
He weeps to see the ancient places burn,
And still you make what purchases you please,
And still to dust and ashes you return.

But Hope could rise from ashes even now
Beginning with this sign upon your brow.

Malcolm Guite, "Ash Wednesday" Sounding the Seasons

Welcome to St. James Cathedral

This sacred land is the territory of several Indigenous Nations - the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishnaabe, with special recognition to the Mississaugas of New Credit. We also acknowledge that we are on the shores of Niigaani-gichigami/Lake Ontario. This territory is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishnaabe Confederacy to peaceably share and sustain the life of the Great Lakes. In the spirit of that Treaty we seek to place at the centre of our gatherings the values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility, and mutual aid.

Accessibility

A Wheelchair Accessible Washroom is located at the front of the Cathedral through the doors by the pulpit.
Assisted hearing devices are available from the sidespersons.

Parking

There are a variety of inexpensive parking lots available around the Cathedral. Please see the leaflets at the back of the Cathedral or online at **stjamescathedral.ca/contact** for more information.

Connect with the Cathedral

Visit our website at **stjamescathedral.ca** | Follow us on Facebook at **facebook.com/stjamesto**

*As this is a very public and open space please be aware of your personal belongings.
Do not leave them unattended in the Cathedral or in the Cathedral Centre.*

Welcome. We are so glad you have joined us for worship this evening. Please ensure that cell phones are turned off and refrain from taking photographs during the liturgy.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Introit

Misereris omnium—Plainsong

Choir Misereris omnium, Domine, et nihil odisti eorum quae fecisti dissimulans peccata hominum propter paenitentiam, et parcens illis: quia tu es Dominus Deus noster. Miserere mei Deus, miserere mei: quoniam in te confidit anima mea.

Your mercy extends to all things, O Lord, and you despise none of the things you have made. You overlook the sins of men for the sake of repentance. You grant them your pardon, because you are the Lord our God. Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for my soul confides in you.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Collect of the Day

Presider Let us pray.

Please remain standing.

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise 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 brokenness, 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.

People Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

The First Reading

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Reader 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?’ ”

Reader The word of the Lord. *People* Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Please remain seated.* *Psalm 103: 8-18—Plainsong*

Choir The Lord is full of compassion and mercy;
 slow to anger and of great kindness.
 He will not always accuse us;
 nor will he keep his anger for ever.
 He has not dealt with us according to our sins;
 nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
 For as the heavens are high above the earth;
 so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
 As far as the east is from the west;
 so far has he removed our sins from us.
 As a father cares for his children;
 so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
 For he himself knows whereof we are made;
 he remembers that we are but dust.
 Our days are like the grass;
 we flourish like a flower of the field.
 When the wind goes over it, it is gone;
 and its place shall know it no more.
 But the merciful goodness of the Lord
 endures for ever on those who fear him;
 and his righteousness on children’s children;
 On those who keep his covenant;
 and remember his commandments and do them.

The Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6: 10

Reader 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, labours, 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 honour and dishonour, 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Andrew Ager

Please stand as you are able and turn to face the Gospeller in the centre aisle.

Cantor Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

People Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Cantor If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

People Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Gospeller The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospeller Jesus said, "Beware of practising 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.”

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ. *People* Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Invitation to a Holy Lent

Presider Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole. I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Litany of Penitence

Presider Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

Please kneel, as you are able. Silence is kept for a time.

Presider Most holy and merciful God,

All we confess to you, 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 neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

All Have mercy on us, Lord.

Presider 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.

All Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

All We confess to you, Lord.

Presider Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

All We confess to you, Lord.

Presider Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All We confess to you, Lord.

Presider Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

All We confess to you, Lord.

Presider Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

All We confess to you, Lord.

Presider 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,

All Accept our repentance, Lord.

Presider For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
All Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Presider Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
All Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

Presider Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these
ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that
only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ
our Saviour.

People Amen.

*Those who wish to receive the Imposition of Ashes
are invited to come forward to the altar rail.*

Presider + Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Please kneel, as you are able.

Presider Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
People That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Presider By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,
People Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Presider Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins through
our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power
of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People Amen.

The Peace

Please stand, as you are able.

We offer each other a sign of peace. A handshake or a simple bow are appropriate.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn

Text: G.H. Smyttan and F. Pott; Music: Martin Herbst;

Tune: Heinlein (Aus Der Tiefe)

*Hymn text
below*



Hymn text Forty days and forty nights thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.
Sunbeams scorching all the day; chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
Prowling beasts about thy way; stones thy pillow; earth thy bed.
Shall not we thy trial share, and from earthly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with thee to suffer pain?
And if Satan, vexing sore, flesh or spirit should assail,
Thou, his vanquisher before, grant we may not faint nor fail.
So shall we have peace divine; holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us too shall angels shine, such as ministered to thee.
Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear; ever constant by thy side;
That with thee we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offering, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.

People Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

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 our thanks and praise.

Presider Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that reborn through the waters of baptism and renewed in the eucharistic mystery, we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love. Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

Please kneel, as you are able.

Sanctus & Benedictus

Missa Brevis – Tallis arr. Ager

Choir *Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth, pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus, qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Presider We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling 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 Saviour 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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, Father, according to his command,

People 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, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

McNeil Robinson

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break this bread,

People Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Presider Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying,

People If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

People Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

Missa Brevis – Tallis arr. Ager

Choir *Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.*
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us thy peace.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Gluten-free hosts are available upon request.

*If you choose not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward
to receive a blessing. Simply cross your hands over your chest to indicate this to the priest.*

Motet In Ieiunio Et Fletu

Text: Joel 2: 12, 17; Music: Thomas Tallis

Choir *In ieiunio et fletu orabant sacerdotes:*
Parce, Domine, parce populo tuo; et ne des haereditatem tuam in perditionem.
Inter vestibulum et altare plorabant sacerdotes, dicentes: Parce populo tuo.

In fasting and weeping the priests prayed:

Spare, Lord, spare thy people and give not thine heritage over to perdition.

Between the porch and the altar the priests lamented, saying:

Spare thy people.

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.

Please stand, as you are able.

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

The Blessing

Presider May the God of mercy transform you by his grace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People Amen.

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Ash Wednesday Service exhorts us to “observe a holy Lent by... prayer, fasting and almsgiving...” Almsgiving, from the Greek for “compassion”, means giving generously to the poor. By giving alms we become part of God’s desire for justice and mercy in a concrete way. Each Lent, members of the Cathedral community are encouraged to “give alms” by donating to Faith Works, a program of the Diocese of Toronto which funds agencies across the diocese and around the world which help the poor and others in need. More information is available at www.faithworks.ca

*Presiding Celebrant: The Dean • Homilist: The Reverend Andrew MacDonald
First Reader: Philippa Campsie • Second Reader: Tina Conlon
Director of Music: Robert Busiakiewicz • Organist: David Simon
Wayne Vance Organ Scholar: Patrick McElcheran
Sung by Members of the Choir of St. James Cathedral*

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