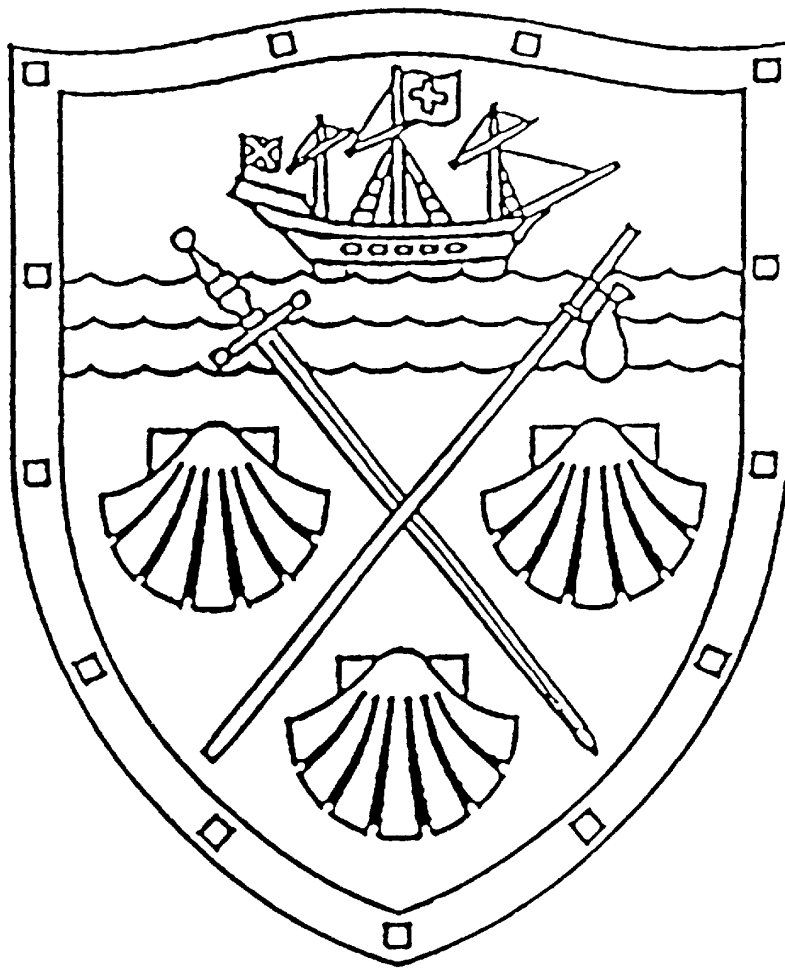


The Cathedral Church of St. James

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

Holy Eucharist with Ashes and Spiritual Communion at 12:30pm



*The Cathedral Church of St. James
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada*

Land Acknowledgment

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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Introit

Psalm 51: 1-10 - Plainchant

Cantor

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness,
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults:
and my sin is ever before me.
Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying,
and be clear when thou art judged.
Behold, I was shapen in wickedness;
and in sin hath my mother conceive me.
But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts:
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.
Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me to hear joy and gladness;
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
Turn thy face from my sins,
and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

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

Leader The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

All **He will not always accuse us, ***
nor will he keep his anger forever.

Leader He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

All **For as the heavens are high above the earth, ***
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

Leader As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

All **As a father cares for his children, ***
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

Leader For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

All **Our days are like the grass; ***
we flourish like a flower of the field.

Leader When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
and its place shall know it no more.

All **But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures**
forever on those who fear him, *

and his righteousness on children's children;

Leader On those who keep his covenant *

All **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

Cantor Incline your ear, O Lord, and save us.

People **Incline your ear, O Lord, and save us.**

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

People **Incline your ear, O Lord, and save us.**

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.**

Sign 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 may trace the sign of the cross on their forehead and say with the Bishop,

Presider **I remember that I am dust, and to dust I 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.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn

Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright

Text: James Montgomery;

Music: John Day; Tune: St. Flavian

Cantor Lord, teach us how to pray aright with rev'rence and with fear.
though dust and ashes in your sight, we may, we must draw near.

We perish if we cease from pray'r; Oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
and when to meet thee we prepare, Lord, meet us on our way.

Give deep humility; the sense of godly sorrow give;
a strong desire with confidence, to hear your voice and live;

Faith in the only sacrifice that can for sin atone;
to cast our hopes, to fix our eyes on Christ, on Christ alone.

Give these, and then your will be done; thus strengthened with all might,
we, through your Spirit and your Son, shall pray, and pray aright.

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.

All **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.**

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 forever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

All **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and 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.**

Agnus Dei

All **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Presider Those wishing to do so may make their spiritual communion by joining in this prayer with me now:

People **I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Holy Sacrament and in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart; may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul; may you, who give yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your reign shall come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

Motet Lament

Henry Purcell

Cantor Wilt thou forgive my wrongs, for thy mercy's sake,
and blot out all my misdeeds? Remember me, but forgive my wrongs.

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.**

Hymn – CP 564

Text: James Edmeston; Music: Melody Friedrich Filitz;
adapt. Thomas Binney; Tune: Mannheim

Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us

Cantor Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us; all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us, thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary, through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending, fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending, pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided, nothing can our peace destroy.

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 FaithWorks, 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 & Homilist: The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil

Assisting Clergy: The Very Reverend Stephen Vail

Pastoral Associate: Claire Latimer-Dennis

Music Director & Organist: Thomas Bell

Cantor: Rebecca Gray

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