

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 17, 2021**



*O Lord hear my prayer  
O Lord hear my prayer  
When I call, answer me;  
O Lord hear my prayer  
O Lord hear my prayer  
Come and listen to me.*

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

Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

**The Word**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Reflection – Jamie Howison

## The Liturgy of Ashes

Psalm 51:1-17

*Reader 1*

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

*Reader 2*

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgement.  
Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

*Reader 1*

You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

*Reader 2*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

*Reader 1*

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

*All*

**O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.  
For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.  
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

*Silence is observed*

### **Litany of Penitence:**

Most holy and merciful God,  
**we confess to you and to one another,  
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.**

The Lord our God has spoken to us:  
“Turn to me now with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts, not your garments.” (Joel 2:12-13a)

**We turn to you now, O Lord, and ask forgiveness.**

Lord God, we have gazed on life and beauty, and on all that you have made; but we have refused to see you working among us, and refused to give you praise for all that you have given us.

**We turn to you now, O Lord, and ask forgiveness.**

You call us to greatness, and we choose mediocrity;  
You place your trust in us, and we mistrust each other, ourselves, and you.

**We turn to you now, O Lord, and ask forgiveness.**

You bid us spread peace, and our actions divide;  
You call us to build up, and our efforts tear down.

**We turn to you now, O Lord, and ask forgiveness.**

You bid us spread your message of life, yet our actions deny life;  
You give us cause to hope in humanity, and we blind our eyes with despair.

**We turn to you now, O Lord, and ask forgiveness.**

**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

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. **Amen.**

*If you have ashes at home from our Winter Feasts and Fasts packages, you can now mark your forehead with an ashen cross. If you don't have ashes, you can just trace a cross on your forehead with your hand. As you do, say aloud these words:*

**+I remember that I am dust, and to dust I shall return. Amen**

God of mercy, Lord of love,  
look on us with kindness now  
as we turn our gaze to you.  
We have taken upon us this sign of repentance,  
Proclaiming as we do that we are nothing  
if we are not yours.

**Ashes we were, and ashes we will be;  
But you, our God, are God for ever and ever.**

*Absolution is proclaimed*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**The Table**

*Who condemns you now?  
Neither them nor I  
Go and sin no more  
Go and sin no more*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,  
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and Redeemer...

... now with all creation we raise our voices  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth of your glory are full.  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.**

**+Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Holy and gracious God,  
accept our praise,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ...

... All glory and honour are yours,  
Father and Son,  
with the Holy Spirit  
in the holy Church,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray

**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.**

This is the body of Christ:  
behold what you are,  
become what you receive.

**Amen.**

This is the table, not merely of the church, but of Christ.  
It is made ready for those who love him,  
and for those who want to love him more.  
So come, whether you have much faith or little;  
have tried to follow, or are afraid you've failed.  
Come, because it is His will that those who  
want to meet him might meet him here.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

The body of Christ, broken for us all.

**Amen.**

*Take a moment to eat the bread you have set out in your home.*

*You have redeemed my soul  
From the pit of emptiness;  
You have redeemed my soul from death.*

*The priest will then raise the cup, and say,*

The blood of Christ, shed for us all.

**Amen.**

*You have redeemed my soul  
From the pit of emptiness;  
You have redeemed my soul from death.*

*I was a hungry child,  
A dried up river  
I was a burned out forest,  
And no one could do anything for me...*

*But you put food in my body,  
Water in my dry bed  
And to my blackened branches*

*You brought the springtime green of new life;  
And nothing is impossible for you.*

Cast your burden upon the Lord,  
**And God will sustain you.**  
Give us the joy of your saving help again,  
**And sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**  
Blessed be the Lord day by day,  
**The God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.**

*Into the darkness we must go;  
Gone, gone is the light.  
Into the darkness we must go;  
Gone, gone is the light.*

*Jesus remember me  
When You enter Your kingdom;  
Jesus remember me  
When Your kingdom comes.*

*Father forgive them  
They know not what they do;  
Father forgive them,  
They know not what they do.*

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**