



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

**February 22, 2023
7:00pm**

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**3480 E. MAIN STREET
COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA 30337
404-761-8402**

**Imposition of Ashes and Communion
Rite II, Prayer C
www.stjohnscollegepark.com**

Prelude:

Aria in Eb by W. Wold

On this day, the Celebrant begins the liturgy with the Salutation and the Collect of the Day.

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.

Lessons

The congregation is seated.

Lector A Reading from the Book of 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?'"

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

Psalm 103:1-7 *Prayed responsively celebrant/congregation*

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

**2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.**

3 He forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;

**4 He redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

5 He satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**6 The LORD executes righteousness
and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

7 He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.]

Lector A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the 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.

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

The Sermon The Rev. Tim Black

After the Sermon, all stand, and the Celebrant or Minister appointed invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying

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.

When ashes are to be imposed, the Celebrant 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.

Psalm 51 *Miserere mei, Deus* *sung responsively cantor/congregation*

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
 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 transgressions,
 and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 **Against you only have I sinned**

and done what is evil in your sight.

5 And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

6 **Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

8 **Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

10 **Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.**

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

12 **Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

14 **I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.**

15 Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

16 **Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice;
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

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

Litany of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

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.

The Celebrant continues

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 Bishop, if present, or 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 Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And with thy Spirit.*

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

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The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving- Rite II, Prayer C

SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 369)

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 370)

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Congregation: *Glory to you for ever and ever.*

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

Congregation: *By your will they were created and have their being.*

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Congregation: *Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.*

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

Congregation: *By his blood, he reconciled us.*

Congregation: *By his wounds, we are healed.*

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 371)

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.” Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Congregation: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Congregation: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

INSERT S 119

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM (BCP p. 364)

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

therefore let us keep the feast.

INVITATION (BCP p. 364)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

INSERT LANGUAGE FOR COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

COMMUNION HYMN (BCP p. 365)- TBA

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN (BCP p. 366)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

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

People Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS