

Church of the Epiphany – Tempe



Ash Wednesday

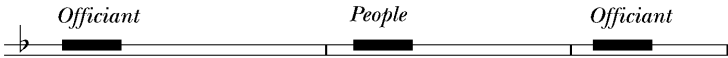
February 14, 2024 | 7:00PM

The Word of God

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

BCP p. 357

All please stand as able.



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

All are seated for the readings

FIRST READING |

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?'"

Reader: The word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Please stand as able for the response. The psalm will be sung in unison by all.

THE PSALM |

Psalm 103:8-14

- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and **mer-cy**, *
slow to anger and / of great **kind-ness**.
- 9 He will not always a-**ccuse** us, *
nor will he keep his an-/ger for e-ver.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our **sins**, *
nor rewarded us according to / our wi-**cked-ness**.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the **earth**, *
so is his mercy great upon / those who **fear** him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the **west**, *
so far has he removed / our sins **from** us.
- 13 As a father cares for his **chil-dren**, *
so does the LORD care for / those who **fear** him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are **made**; *
he remembers that / we are **but** dust.

Silence may follow.

SECOND READING |

2 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. 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, labors, 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 honor and dishonor, 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.**

Silence may follow.

| *All please stand as able for the Sequence hymn and Gospel reading.*

SEQUENCE HYMN | “Now Let Us All with One Accord”

H 147

THE HOLY GOSPEL |

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

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

***People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing 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.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Silence may follow.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Hunter Ruffin

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT |

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All please stand as able.

The Celebrant 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 may follow.

The people kneel as able for the blessing of the ashes.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES |

BCP p. 265

Celebrant: 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.

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES |

BCP p. 265

The ashes are imposed with the following words:

Celebrant: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

The following is spoken in unison by all.

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- ⁵And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
- ⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- ⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- ⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- ¹⁰Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹²Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- ¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- ¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
- ¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
- ¹⁶Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- ¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

The people kneel as they are able.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Celebrant: 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.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

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

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

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

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

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

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

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

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant: 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,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Celebrant: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Celebrant: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

People: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Celebrant: 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 Holy Communion

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | “*Thou Knowest Lord the Secrets...*” (*Purcell*) Choir

OFFERTORY HYMN | “*Eternal Lord of Love*” H 149

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING | EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A BCP p. 361

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant adds a proper preface... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with
Celebrant: Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS | “*Holy, Holy, Holy*” (*Willan*) S 114

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth -
— in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

The Celebrant continues...

... Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues...

... All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM | *“O Lamb of God”* (Merbecke)

S 157

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

THE PEACE |

BCP p. 360

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

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please be mindful of the desired greeting of those around you.

INVITATION |

BCP p. 364

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

Instructions for Receiving Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. If you require a gluten-free wafer, put one hand over your cupped hand so that the minister does not give you a regular wafer.

COMMUNION TAIZE | “*Crucem Taum*”

The image shows a musical score for a Communion Taize. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system begins with a treble clef and a common time signature, followed by a key signature change to one sharp. The lyrics are: Cru - cem tu - am a - do - rá - mus Dó - mi - ne, re - sur - re - cti - ó - nem Tu - san - ta cruz a - do - ra - mos, oh Se - ñor; te a - la - ba - mos, Je - su - O Lord, your cross we a - dore and glo - ri - fy; for your ho - ly res - ur - tu - am lau - dá - mus Dó - mi - ne. Lau - dá - mus et glo - ri - fi - cá - mus. cris - to, por tu re - su - rrec - ción. Can - ta - mos tu a - la - ban - za y glo - ria. rec - tion we praise you, Lord of life. We praise you and we glo - ri - fy you.

The people stand or kneel as able for the Post Communion Prayer

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER |

BCP p. 365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

THE BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN | “*The Glory of these Forty Days*”

H 143

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.