



# ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

30 North Ferry Street Schenectady, NY 12305



## ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6, 2019

## THE ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

**The Prelude:** *Siliciano*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

### The Entrance Rite

*On this day, The Liturgy begins as follows*

**Introit** - *Misereris*

*Tone 7*

Thou hast mercy on all things, O Lord, and hatest nothing that thou hast created: and winkest at men's iniquities, because they should amend, and sparest all men; for they are thine, O Lord, thou lover of souls.  
*Wisdom 11:24-25, 29*

Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee. *Psalm 57:1* Glory be.

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*                    The Lord be with you.

*People*                        And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant*                    Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those 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 thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### The Liturgy of the Word

*The people sit. A Lector reads the following*

**The Lesson** - 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.

**PSALM 103** – *Benedic, anima mea*

Mode 2

**Refrain**

The Lord re-mem-bers that we are but dust.

from *Gradual Psalms for the RCL*, ed. Bruce E. Ford, Church Publishing Incorporated

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

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

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 children, \*  
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.

**The Epistle** - 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, then, 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 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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Tract** - *Domine, non secundum Tone 8*

O Lord, deal not with us after our sins: nor reward us according to our wickednesses. O Lord, remember not our old sins, but have mercy upon us, and that soon: for we are come to great misery. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy Name, O Lord: O deliver us and be merciful unto our sins, for thy Name's sake. Psalm 103:10; Psalm 79:8,9

**The Holy Gospel** - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.  
*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Saint Matthew.  
*People* Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 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 will your heart be also."

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

### **Sermon**

*The Celebrant now 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 upon 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 kept for a space, all kneeling.*

### **The Blessing and Imposition of Ashes**

*The Celebrant says the following*

Almighty God, who hast created us out of the dust of the earth: Bless these ashes, and grant that they may be unto us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by thy gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

*Then ashes are imposed with the following words*

From dust you came, and to dust you shall return.

*The following psalm is then sung by the cantor.*

**PSALM 51 - Miserere mei, Deus**

*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 clear when thou art judged.*

*Behold, I was shapen in wickedness,\*  
and in sin hath my mother conceived 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.*

*Thou shalt make me hear of 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.*

*Cast me not away from thy presence,\*  
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.*

*O give me the comfort of thy help again,\*  
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.*

*Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked,\*  
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

*Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health:\*  
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.*

*Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord,\*  
and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.*

*For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee;\*  
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.*

*The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit:\*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.*

## Litany of Penitence

*The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling*

Most holy and merciful Father:  
We confess to thee 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 thee 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 upon us, O Lord.*

We have been deaf to thy call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved thy Holy Spirit.

*Have mercy upon us, O Lord.*

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

*We confess to thee, O Lord.*

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

*We confess to thee, O Lord.*

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

*We confess to thee, O Lord.*

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

*We confess to thee, O Lord.*

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

*We confess to thee, O Lord.*

Accept our repentance, O 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, O 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, O Lord.*

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

*Accept our repentance, O Lord.*

Restore us, good Lord, and let thine anger depart from us;

*Favorably hear us, for thy mercy is great.*

Accomplish in us the work of thy salvation,  
*That we may show forth thy glory in the world.*

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

*Priest, stands and, facing the people, says*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, hath given power and commandment to his ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

Wherefore let us 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.*

**Offertory Hymn 574:** “*Before thy throne, O God, we kneel*”

*St. Petersburg*

**The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer Book**

*pages 333-336*

**Sanctus & Benedictus:** *Missa Verbum Caro Factus Est*

*(arr. J. McGregor)*

7  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, — Lord God of Hosts: Heav'n and earth are full of thy  
13  
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.

**Our Father – S-67**

*(This is found in the front section of The Hymnal 1982)*

**Agnus Dei - Anglican Folk Mass**

*Martin Shaw (1875-1958)*

4  
O Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
7  
O Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
O Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

**Communion - Qui meditabitur**

*Tone 1*

He who doth meditate on the law of the Lord day and night: will bring forth his fruit in due season. *Psalm 1:2,3*

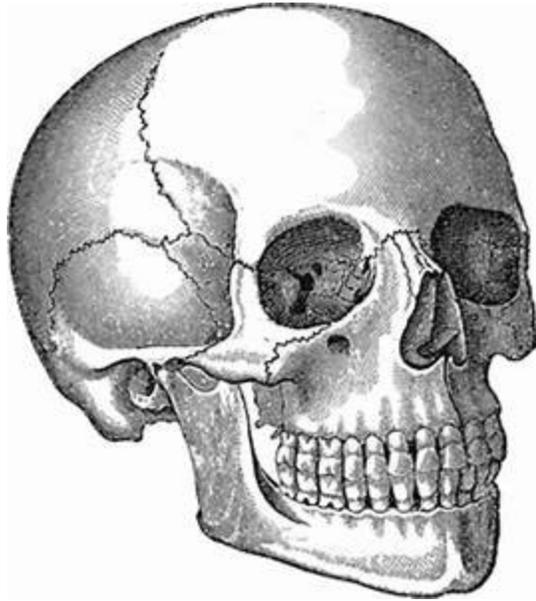
**Communion Anthem – Call to Remembrance**

*Richard Farrant (1530-1580)*

**Postcommunion Prayer & Dismissal, pages 338-339**

**Hymn 143:** “*The glory of these forty days*”

*Erhalt uns, Herr*



Memento Mori