

Ash Wednesday February 22, 2023 7:00pm

Ubicaritas*

Prelude *The clergy enter in silence, All stand as you are able.*

Welcome

Collect of the Day

PriestThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with youPriestLet 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.**

Reading

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

Lector Return to the Lord, your God.

People For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

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 Return to the Lord, your God.

People For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Taize*

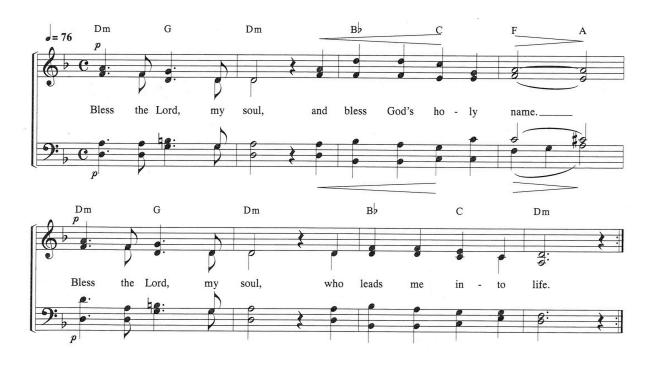
Psalm 103: 8-14

- 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.

Hymn

Bless the Lord my soul

Taize*



Holy Gospel

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Priest 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."

PriestThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper

Invitation to a Holy Lent

All stand, as you are able.

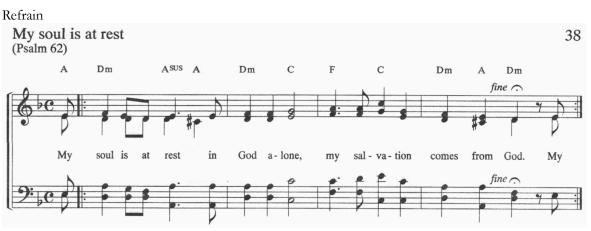
Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for 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 pray before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

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.**

Those people desiring imposition of ashes may come to the altar rail and stand or kneel. The ashes are imposed with the following words



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

Psalm 51

- 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. *Refrain*
- 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. *Refrain*
- 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.
- ¹¹Create 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. *Refrain*
- 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. Refrain
- 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. *Refrain*

Litany of Penitence

The Priest and People together.

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 Priest 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.

Absolution

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

PriestThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

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

Holy Communion

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Carl Mueller

The Great Thanksgiving

PriestThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.PriestLift up your hearts.PeopleWe lift them to the Lord.PriestLet us give thanks to the Lord our God.PeopleIt is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eternal God, in the abundance of your love you cause all things to be.

From dust and spirit you wove our humanity; in all our wanderings you never cease to call us to fullness of life.

Therefore with all whom you have made, cherished and called, with all who hunger for your kingdom, with the broken saints and redeemed sinners of all ages, we take up the song of your praise and say;

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.

Loving God, we give you thanks and praise for your grace in sending your Son, Jesus Christ, even when we had turned away from you.

In your Son you suffered with us and for us, offering us the healing riches of salvation and calling us to freedom and holiness.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus 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, Jesus 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."

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of your Son. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of his death, and proclaim his resurrection, until he comes again.

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon these gifts we offer. May they be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Son Jesus Christ. Make us a living sacrifice of praise.

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**.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

PriestChrist our Passover is sacrificed for us.PeopleTherefore let us keep the feast.



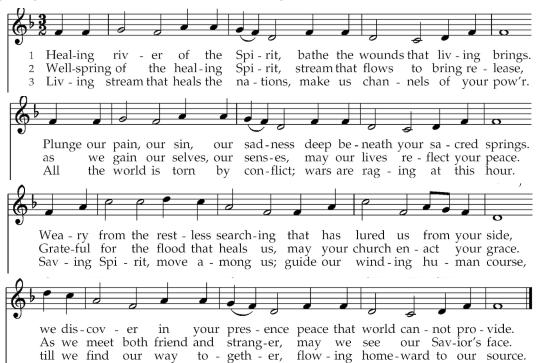
Postcommunion Prayer:

O God, in this holy meal you have embraced us and gathered us into your arms of compassion and protection. Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need: through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Song

Voices Found 96



Dismissal

Priest	Let us go forth, in the name of Christ.
People	Thanks be to God.

Rector Deacon Organist/Choirmaster Director of Contemporary Music & Technology Lector Prayers of the People Chalice Chalice Ushers The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper The Rev. Dr. Charles N. Stewart Kip Coerper Michael Larkin Carrie Chantler Steve Osborne Sr. Marie Hughes Carol Murphy Earl, Connie, and Amy Tuttle

*Music notes: Taize is an ecumenical community in France founded after WWII, where a body of meditative music was created for worship. Jacques Berthier composed much of this music that uses repetitive chants to enable us to be lost in wonder, love, and praise.