



Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023
7:00pm

Prelude

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

*Ubicarietas**

Taize*

Welcome

Collect of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you**

Priest 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.**

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.**

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*

p = 76
Dm G Dm B \flat C F A
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name. _____

p Dm G Dm B \flat C Dm
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

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."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise 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.

Refrain

My soul is at rest
 (Psalm 62)

38

A Dm A SUS A Dm C F C Dm A Dm *fine*

My soul is at rest in God a-lone, my sal-va-tion comes from God. My

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.
- 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. *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

Priest 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.

Holy Communion

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Carl Mueller

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It 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

Priest Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

May be sung as an ostinato by omitting verses.

p Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev - er be hun - gry.
 Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger. *f*

mf Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.
 Je - sus Christ, Ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst. *mf*

Music at the Communion

O Lord hear my prayer

$\text{♩} = 72$

Em C⁶ D G C Am⁶ B

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O
 The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God. The

Em C⁶ D G⁶ Am B Em *fine*

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O
 Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well - spring of life. The *fine*

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

1 Heal-ing riv - er of the Spi - rit, bathe the wounds that liv - ing brings.
 2 Well-spring of the heal-ing Spi - rit, stream that flows to bring re - lease,
 3 Liv - ing stream that heals the na - tions, make us chan - nels of your pow'r.

Plunge our pain, our sin, our sad-ness deep be - neath your sa - cred springs.
 as we gain our selves, our sens-es, may our lives re - flect your peace.
 All the world is torn by con-flict; wars are rag - ing at this hour.

Wea - ry from the rest - less search-ing that has lured us from your side,
 Grate-ful for the flood that heals us, may your church en - act your grace.
 Sav - ing Spi - rit, move a - mong us; guide our wind - ing hu - man course,

we dis-cov - er in your pres - ence peace that world can - not pro - vide.
 As we meet both friend and strang-er, may we see our Sav-ior's face.
 till we find our way to - geth - er, flow - ing home-ward to our source.

Dismissal

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

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

**Music notes: Taizé 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.*