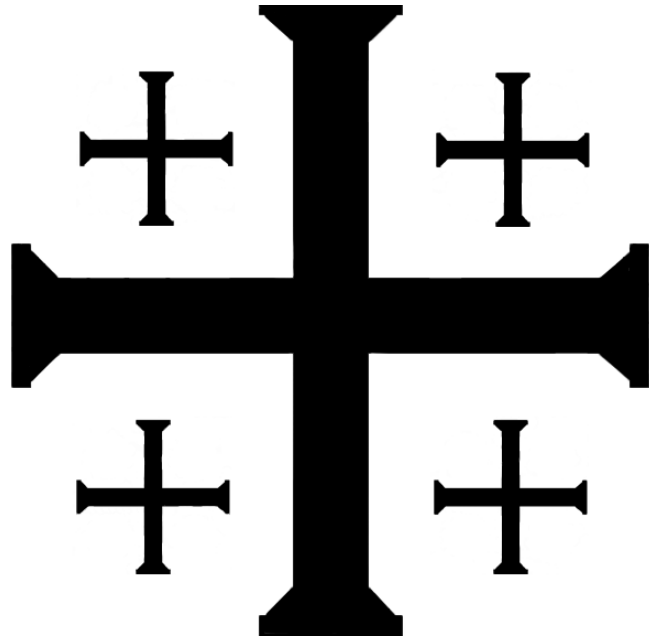


ASH WEDNESDAY



The Holy Eucharist *with the Imposition of Ashes*

FEBRUARY 26, 2020
7:00 PM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a time of fasting, prayer, self-examination, and preparation for the Easter Feast. The imposition of ashes is an ancient sign of repentance and serves as a reminder of our mortality. As God said to Adam, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” As we are marked with ashes on our foreheads in the same manner that we are signed with the cross at Baptism, we are reminded that we are marked as Christ’s own forever in a visible way.

The people's responses are in bold.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

THE INTROIT

Christus factus est

Felice Anerio (ca. 1560-1614)

Sung in Latin. Christ became obedient for us unto death, even to death on the cross. Therefore God exalted him and gave him a name which is above all names.

(Phillipians 2:8-9)

The people kneel, as able, as the ministers enter in silence.

THE COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

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.**

The people are seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

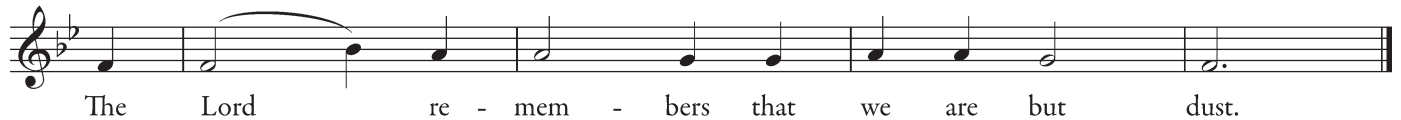
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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?'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The choir introduces the refrain, then all repeat.



The choir sings the psalm.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

All repeat the refrain.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

All repeat the refrain.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.
As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

All repeat the refrain.

THE 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able at the introduction of the hymn.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE

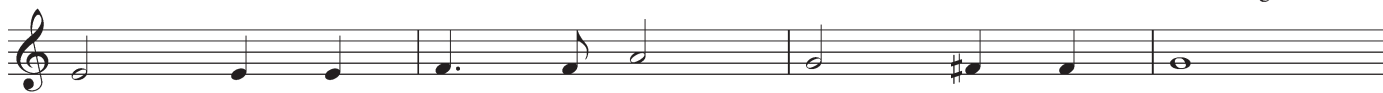
Come, ye disconsolate

Sung by all.

Consolation



1. Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish,
2. Joy of the des - o - late, light of the stray - ing,
3. Here see the bread of life; see wa - ters flow - ing



come to the mer - cy seat, fer - vent - ly kneel:
hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure!
forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove:



Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;
Here speaks the com - for - ter, ten - der - ly say - ing,
Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er know - ing



earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.
"Earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not cure."
earth has no sor - row but heav'n can re - move.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Canon Dana Colley Corsello

The people stand as able.

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

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.

The people may kneel or be seated and keep silence.

THE 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.**

The people move at the direction of the ushers.

Ashes are imposed with the following words, Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

The people are seated.

ANTHEM AT THE IMPOSITION

Miserere mei, Deus

Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652), ed. and arr. William S. Rockstro (1823-1895)
and Ivor Atkins (1869-1953)

Sung in Latin. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgement. Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb. For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly. Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you. Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation. Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt -offerings. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Be favorable and gracious to Zion, and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. That you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt -offerings and oblations; then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

(Psalm 51)

The people may kneel or be seated.

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

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 presider 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.

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 people stand as able.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

An offering is received to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love with the world. All are invited to make a gift to help keep the Cathedral strong—either as the plate is passed or texting the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005.

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

We shall walk through the valley in peace

Negro spiritual; arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

We shall walk through the valley in peace. For Jesus himself will be our leader. We shall walk through the valley in peace. We will meet our loved ones there. For Jesus himself will be our leader. We shall walk through the valley in peace. There will be no trials there. For Jesus himself will be our leader. We shall walk through the valley in peace.

The people stand as able at the introduction of the hymn.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION • 149

Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church

Old 124th

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The presider offers thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available in Christ, and in response the people sing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Sung by all.

Mass 18

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presider gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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

Notre Père..., Padre nuestro..., Vater unser...,

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.

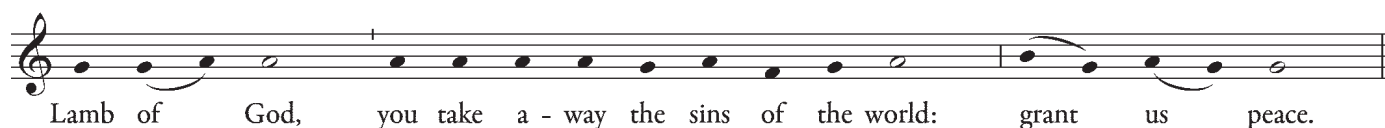
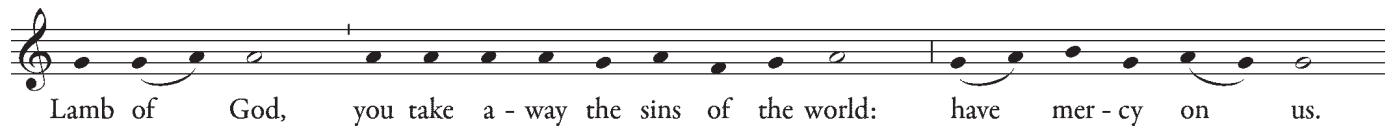
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE FRACTION ANTHEM

The presider breaks the bread in silence.

Agnus Dei

Sung by all.

Mass 18



THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The people are seated.

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine from the chalice, guiding it gently to your lips; or you may dip the wafer into the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. Respond to receiving Communion by saying "Amen."

Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest.

ANTHEM DURING THE COMMUNION

Drop, drop, slow tears

Kenneth Leighton (1921-1988)

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beautiful feet, which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace. Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat; to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease. In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears; nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

(Phineas Fletcher, 1582-1650)

The people stand as able.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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.

During the season of Lent, in place of a final blessing, the presider offers a Prayer over the People.

THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Let us bow down before the Lord.

The people may kneel or bow as able.

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The people stand as able.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING • 143

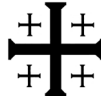
The glory of these forty days

Erhalt uns, Herr

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people depart in silence.



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Presider

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith

Preacher

The Reverend Canon Dana Colley Corsello

Deacon

The Venerable L. Sue von Rautenkranz

Assistant

The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan

Assisting Clergy

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope
The Reverend Canon Leonard L. Hamlin, Sr.
The Reverend Patrick L. Keyser
The Reverend Melanie Mullen
The Reverend Dr. Nan Peete
The Reverend L. Todd Thomas
The Reverend Dr. Wesley S. Williams, Jr.

Readers

Matthew Eldred
Tonya Parham

The Girls Cathedral Choir

Choirmaster

Thomas M. Sheehan

Organist

Erik Suter

Vergers

Dr. Torrence N. Thomas
G. Scott Sanders
G. Stanley Utterback, Jr.
Catherine Able-Thomas
Joyce Michelini

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The work of the Cathedral in service to the city, the nation, and the world is made possible entirely through private support. The gifts of people from across the country and the world are behind every worship service, concert, public program, and the daily work of maintaining this historic landmark. It is only through your generosity that the Cathedral can fully live into its priorities of welcoming, deepening, convening, and serving.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please know that your presence with us today has been a blessing.

*If you'd like to contribute toward Easter flowers in honor or memory of a loved one,
please email flowers@cathedral.org directly.*



For information about our Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter services:
cathedral.org/lent



WASHINGTON
**NATIONAL
CATHEDRAL**

3101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW · Washington, DC 20016
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