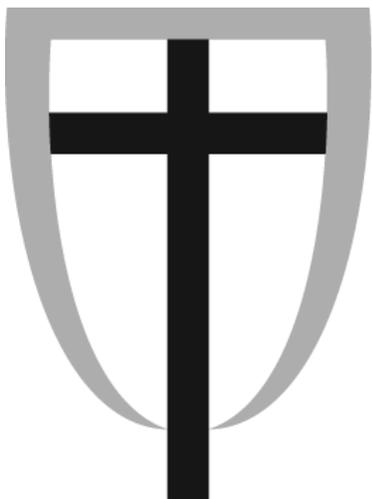


ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 17, 2021
12 and 5:30 P.M.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BATON ROUGE



We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ!

This service leaflet is meant to aid you in full participation in our Liturgy.

Congregational responses are printed in boldface type.

Music is only at the 5:30 p.m. service and sung by members of the St. James Schola.

Voluntary

Siciliana

William Walond (1719-1768)

On this day the Ministers enter the Church in silence.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Collect of the Day

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 First Lesson

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

Lector A reading from the Book of Joel.

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.**

The Psalm *Psalm 103:8-14*

Plainsong, Tone VIII.2

Benedic, anima mea

*1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.*
*2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.*
*3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;*
*4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;*
*5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.*
*6 The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.*
*7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.*

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 Second Lesson *2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10*

Lector A reading from the second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn *Jesus, all my gladness* *Jesu, meine Freude*

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

Preacher 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."

Preacher The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Harmon

The 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.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

The Imposition of Ashes

Psalm 51

Sung by the Choir, Plainsong, Tone IV.1

- ¹ *Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.*
- ² *Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.*
- ³ *For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.*
- ⁴ *Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.*
- ⁵ *Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*
- ⁶ *Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.*
- ⁷ *Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*
- ⁸ *Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.*
- ⁹ *Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.*
- ¹⁰ *Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*
- ¹¹ *Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.*
- ¹² *Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*
- ¹³ *Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.*
- ¹⁴ *Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.*
- ¹⁵ *Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.*
- ¹⁶ *You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*
- ¹⁷ *My sacrifice, O God, is ^[L] a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.*

*18 May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.*

*19 Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.*

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.

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,

Have mercy on us, 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,

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, 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 Peace

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving *Form D*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **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.**

Celebrant continues

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks...and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

Sanctus & Benedictus

S 117

Hans Leo Hassler

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.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love...and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us...through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

Fraction Anthem: Agnus Dei (S 160)

Anaphora Chant, Mass 18

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music at Communion *Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake*

Richard Farrant (c. 1525-1580)

The Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

Eternal Lord of love, behold your church

Old 124th

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary *Allegretto in G minor* *Maurice Greene (1696-1755)*

Today's flowers are given to the great glory of God and in thanksgiving for the people of St. James.

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