



Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021
7:00am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Meditations on Three Lenten Hymns

Charles Callahan

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

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Lector Return to the Lord, your God.

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

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 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

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a tempo marking of quarter note = 76 and a dynamic marking of *p*. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system's lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name._____". The second system's lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The score includes a treble and bass clef for the piano part and a vocal line. Chord symbols are placed above the piano part: Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, F, A in the first system, and Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, Dm in the second system.

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

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.

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 at home make the mark of ashes on their own foreheads, or those of others in their household, with the following words
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Psalm 51 *read responsively by whole verse*

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.**

Music for reflection

Lamb of God Most Holy

Michael Burkhard

Holy Communion

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

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. We desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim your resurrection. We love you above all things, and long for you in our souls.

Since we cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Music during Communion

Music at the Communion

Lamb of God Most Holy

Michael Burkhard

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

Dismissal

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

Postlude

O Lord Hear My Prayer

Taize
