

Ash Wednesday: Order of Mass

Opening Song

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

All: Amen.

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the love of God the Source of All that Is, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Salutation

Collect

Celebrant: 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 weakness and failings, 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 I

Jl 2:12-18

Even now, says the LORD,
return to me with your whole heart,
with fasting, and weeping, and mourning;
Rend your hearts, not your garments,
and return to the LORD, your God.
For gracious and merciful is he,
slow to anger, rich in kindness,
and relenting in punishment.
Perhaps he will again relent
and leave behind him a blessing,
Offerings and libations
for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion!
 proclaim a fast,
 call an assembly;
Gather the people,
 notify the congregation;
Assemble the elders,
 gather the children
 and the infants at the breast;
Let the bridegroom quit his room
 and the bride her chamber.
Between the porch and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep,
And say, "Spare, O LORD, your people,
 and make not your heritage a reproach,
 with the nations ruling over them!
Why should they say among the peoples,
 'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land
 and took pity on his people.

L. The Word of the Lord

All. Thanks be to God

Psalm 103

- 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.
- [15 Our days are like the grass; *
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
and its place shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear
him, *
and his righteousness on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his covenant *
and remember his commandments and do them.
- 19 The LORD has set his throne in heaven, *
and his kingship has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding, *
and hearken to the voice of his word.
- 21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, *
you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion; *
bless the LORD, O my soul.]

Reading II

2 Cor 5:20—6:2

Brothers and sisters:
We are ambassadors for Christ,
as if God were appealing through us.

We implore you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.
For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin,
so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.
Working together, then,
we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.
For he says:

*In an acceptable time I heard you,
and on the day of salvation I helped you.*

Behold, now is a very acceptable time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.

L. The Word of the Lord

All. Thanks be to God

All: Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ, who reigns in endless glory!

L. The Lord be with you.

All. And also with you

L. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

All. Glory to You, O Lord!

Gospel

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Take care not to perform righteous deeds
in order that people may see them;
otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father.

When you give alms,
do not blow a trumpet before you,
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets
to win the praise of others.

Amen, I say to you,
they have received their reward.

But when you give alms,
do not let your left hand know what your right is doing,
so that your almsgiving may be secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you pray,
do not be like the hypocrites,

who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners
so that others may see them.

Amen, I say to you,
they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go to your inner room,
close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.
And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you fast,
do not look gloomy like the hypocrites.
They neglect their appearance,
so that they may appear to others to be fasting.
Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.
But when you fast,
anoint your head and wash your face,
so that you may not appear to be fasting,
except to your Father who is hidden.
And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

L. The Gospel of the Lord

All. Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ!

Homily

The Litany of Penance †

God our Father and Mother,
All: have mercy on us.

God the Son,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,
have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief:
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy:
from envy, hatred, and malice:

and from all evil intent.
good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money:
from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws,
good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind:
from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil;
from error and false teaching,
good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow,
in all times of joy:
in the hour of death,
and at the day of judgment,
good Lord, deliver us.

Govern and direct your holy Church: fill it with love and truth:
and grant it that unity which is your will.
Hear us, good Lord.

Give us boldness to preach and live the gospel in all the world,
and to make disciples of all the nations.
Hear us, good Lord.

Enlighten your ministers with knowledge and understanding,
that by their teaching and their lives
they may proclaim your word.
Hear us, good Lord.

Give your people grace to hear and receive your word,
and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.
Hear us, good Lord.

Bring into the way of truth
all who have erred and are deceived.
Hear us, good Lord.

Strengthen those who stand:
comfort and help the faint-hearted:

raise up the fallen;
and finally beat down the Evil One under our feet.
Hear us, good Lord.

Give us true repentance:
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins:
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

*Holy God
Holy Strong
Holy Immortal One
Have mercy on us.*

Silence

Penitential Rite

L.: Create in us clean hearts, O God:
All: and renew a right spirit within us.
L: Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence

*All: Almighty God,
Creator of heaven and earth,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word, and deed.*

*We have not loved you with all our being,
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves:
we have disfigured your image in which we are made.*

*In your mercy, forgive what we have been
and what we have done,
guide us and help us to amend our lives,
and bring us to fullness of life in you,
for the sake of your Son who died for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Imposition of Ashes

Blessing the Dust *for Ash Wednesday*

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—

did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing

that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

And so we pray...(*Please stretch our both hands over your container of ashes.*)
Almighty God,
you have compassion on all your children,
and hate nothing you have made;
you do not desire the death of sinners,
but that they turn from their ways and live.

May these ashes be for us,
who are redeemed through the cross of Christ,
a sign of our death to old destructive ways of living, to ourselves broken by sin,
and our turning away from you,
and the pledge of our life in Christ;
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

I invite you to receive the mark of Christ's cross,
with which we are signed at Baptism,
and by which we are forgiven our sins
and live to the glory of God.

Let us make the sign of the cross with the ashes on our foreheads and say together:

*We are created out of the dust of the earth:
a sign of our mortality and a reminder of God's grace.
By the Cross of Christ, we are redeemed.*

Prayer of the Faithful

Sign of Peace

Offertory

Offertory Hymn

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Communion Hymn

Closing Prayer:

Closing Hymn