



Episcopal Church of the Cross
February 14, 2024
Ash Wednesday
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120
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The mission of the Episcopal Church of the Cross is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and soul, and strength, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. We are the ECC: Loving God and our neighbors.

Welcome to Church of the Cross!

If you would like to learn more about the life and future of Church of the Cross, please scan the code below and we'll be in touch later this week. Thank you!



Opening Song:

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Forty days and forty nights thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights; tempted, and yet undefiled.

Should not we thy sorrow share, and from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with thee to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press, Jesus, Savior, hear our call!
Victor in the wilderness, grant we may not faint nor fall!

So shall we have peace divine: Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine, such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by thy side;
That with thee we may appear at the-eternal Eastertide.

Presider: 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 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?”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Presider: 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.

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

The Message

The Call to a Holy Lent and the Imposition of Ashes

Psalm 51:

Psalm Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

People: **Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.**

Psalm Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

People: **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

Psalm Leader: And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

People: **Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.**

Psalm Leader: For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

People: **Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Psalm Leader: Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

People: **Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.**

Psalm Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

People: **Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

Psalm Leader: Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

People: **I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.**

Psalm Leader: Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

People: **Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Psalm Leader: Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

People: **The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Litany of Penitence:

All: **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.**

Presider: 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.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Presider: 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.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Presider: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider: 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,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Presider: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who are different from us.

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Presider: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Presider: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Presider: By the grace and passion of your Son our Lord,
People: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

The Declaration of Absolution

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's Peace...

The Offering:

*Offerings can be made by check or in cash may be placed in the offering basket near the back of the worship service. Offerings can also be made by texting ECCLAKETRAVIS with your amount to **73256**.*

Song of Offering:

I Come with Joy

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
That love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known: We see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,
And as his people in the world we'll live and speak his praise.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right give God thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right to give you thanks and praise, Loving God, at all times and in all places, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

We thank you for how you are always revealing yourself: in Creation; in the scriptures; through your people, gathered and sent; and fully in your Son, Jesus Christ, who in the cross makes us right with you, one another, and in our very selves.

And so we join the saints and angels proclaiming your glory as we say,

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: With grateful hearts, Lord God, we bring you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

With those throughout the ages who have loved you, and sought you, and followed you, we pray this ancient story: 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, he 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.

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.

All: **AMEN!**

The Lord's Prayer:

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 Presider breaks the consecrated loaf...

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast!**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Please come forward to receive communion as you are called to do so.

Music During Communion:

Simple Gifts

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn, will be our delight
till by turning, turning we come round right

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your Kingdom;
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your Kingdom.

Prayer of Sending

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Closing Song:

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence, and through thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death; Jesus! With us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!

Dismissal:

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Episcopal Church of the Cross

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The People of Church of the Cross, Ministers of the Gospel

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