

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Bridgewater, New Jersey



An Abbreviated Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
with Spiritual Communion
Rite 2

February 17, 2021
Ash Wednesday

The priest enters in silence and then begins saying,

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 Lesson (2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10)

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*

Psalm 103:8-14 *Benedic, anima mea*

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.

Gospel Verse

Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. *Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Holy Gospel

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

All: 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." Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

The Gospel of the Lord./ *All: Praise to you, O Christ.*

The Homily

Father Robert Laws

After the Sermon, all stand, and the Celebrant invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying

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.

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 ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

(At this point, you may impose ashes on your forehead, or on the forehead of a family member in the sign of the cross. When completed, and after a moment of silence, we continue by praying Psalm 51).

Psalm 51 *Miserere mei, Deus*

- 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.

Litany of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

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 Celebrant 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.

The Priest stands and facing the people, says

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 and The Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn: *Now Let Us All with One Accord*

Bourbon



1 Now let us all with one ac - cord, in
2 The cov - e - nant, so long re - vealed to
3 Your love, O Lord, our sin - ful race has
4 Re - mem - ber, Lord, though frail we be, in
5 There - fore, we pray you, Lord, for - give; so



1 com - pa - ny with a - ges past, keep vi - gil with our
2 those of faith in for - mer time, Christ by his own ex -
3 not re - turned, but fal - si - fied; au - thor of mer - cy,
4 your own i - mage were we made; help us, lest in anx -
5 when our wan - derings here shall cease, we may with you for



1 heav - en - ly Lord in his temp - ta - tion and his fast.
2 am - ple sealed, the Lord of love, in love sub - lime.
3 turn your face and grant re - pent - ance for our pride.
4 i - e - ty, we cause your Name to be be - trayed.
5 ev - er live, in love and u - ni - ty and peace.

Words: Att. Gregory the Great (540-604); tr. *Praise the Lord*, 1972, alt. Copyright © by James Quinn, SJ. Printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division of Cassell Ltd. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. Thomas Foster (b. 1938) Copyright ©1984, Thomas Foster. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Liturgy of the Altar

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 our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

***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.***

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

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 forever. *Amen.*

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

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 Fraction

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, *have mercy on us.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, *have mercy on us.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, *grant us your peace.*

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are they who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

An Act of Spiritual Communion (prayed silently)

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen. Lord Jesus, come dwell in my heart.

Post Communion 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.

Prayer over the People

Priest: Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel and the Priest says the following prayer:

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.

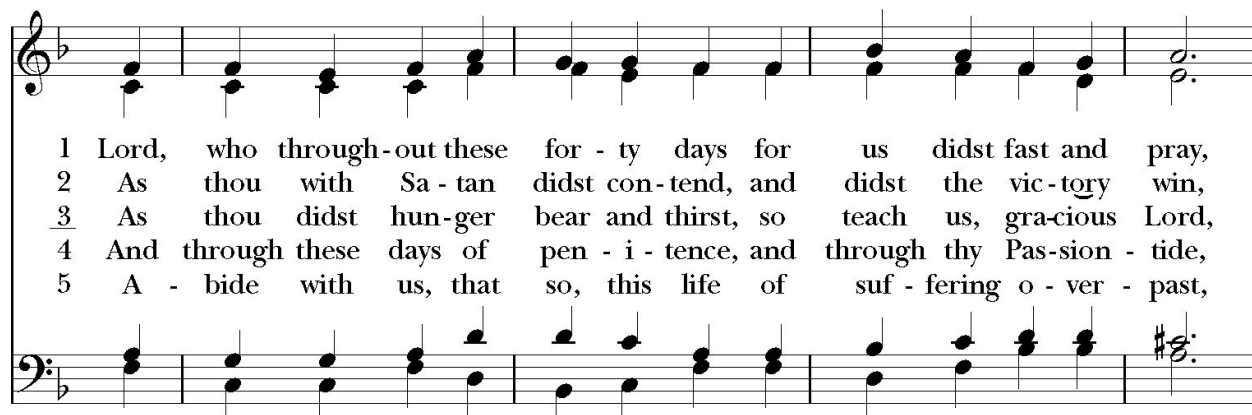
Dismissal

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

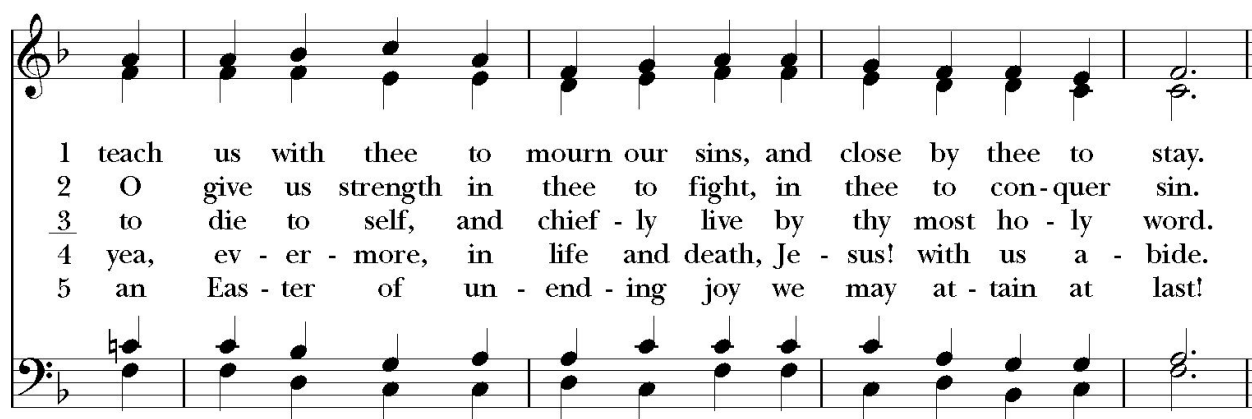
People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 142 *Lord Who Throughout these Forty Days*

St. Flavian



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
 2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, and didst the vic-tory win,
 3 As thou didst hun-ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra-cious Lord,
 4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas-sion - tide,
 5 A - bidde with us, that so, this life of suf - fer-ing o - ver - past,



1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
 2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
 3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
 4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bidde.
 5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898) Music: *St. Flavian*, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt. and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901)