

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

*Ash
Wednesday*

7:00 PM



The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Almighty and everlasting God, you despise 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 brokenness, 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**

Come You Sinners, Poor and Needy CP 608

*Come, you sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore.
Jesus, Son of God, will save you, full of pity, love, and power.
I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms;
in the arms of my dear Saviour, O there are ten thousand charms.*

*Come, you thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;
true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.
I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms;
in the arms of my dear Saviour, O there are ten thousand charms.*

*Come, you weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry will you're better, you will never come at all.
I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms;
in the arms of my dear Saviour, O there are ten thousand charms.*

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

Your Word, O God, a Living Sword CP 604 (tune 508)

***Your word, O God, a living sword, reveals within each heart
the love of self, the hidden fears that keep us far apart;
we seek to stand by our own strength but fail and fall alone,
and still we find ourselves afraid to know as we are known.***

***Your word, O God, a living sword, cuts deep, and there it finds
the wall we build in self-defense that blocks our sight and blinds;
we cannot see our neighbours' needs above the walls and bars
that we have made to save ourselves, and they cannot see ours.***

***Your word, O God, a living sword, strikes deep within each soul
and opens up the path by which you come to make us whole;
and with your love set deep within we need not stand along,
for love drives out our faithless fears and makes your people one.***

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

'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.

Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

Sermon

Healer of our Every Ill CP 612

***Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.***

You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness.

Spirit of all comfort: fill our hearts

Healer of our every ill...

***In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision: God of love.***

Healer of our every ill...

Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother.

Spirit of all kindness: be our guide.

Healer of our every ill...

You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing.

Spirit of compassion: fill each heart.

Healer of our every ill...

A video of ash being created is shown while the minister calls the community to a holy Lent.

Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole. I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Psalm 51: 1-17

Am *mf* (Cmaj⁷) (F) C F G⁷ Em (Em⁷) A (A⁷) Dm Am Gsus⁴ G C

Ho - ly One, give us clean hearts and stead - fast spir - its.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness

and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak

and upright in your judgement.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,

a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,

and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;

wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness,

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins

and blot out all my iniquities. R

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.
Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. RR

Let us confess our sins.

Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you, 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 neighbours 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 judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, 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;
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive CP 614

(tune: House of the Rising Sun)

***Forgive our sins as we forgive, you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.***

***How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs, and will not let old bitterness depart?***

***In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts. Are owed to us, how great our debt to you!***

***Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;
then, bond to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.***

Accomplish in us, O God, 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 have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

May the peace of God be always with you. **And also with you.**