



# CHRIST AND GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*It is our custom to observe a prayerful silence before the service begins.  
During the service, please feel free to stand or kneel as you are able.*

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## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021

12:00 pm Service on YouTube

1:00 – 5:00 pm Outside Imposition of Ashes

### The Word of God

**Prelude:** *O Mensch beweine*

J S Bach

**Opening Acclamation** *standing*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **His mercy endures forever. Amen.**

**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.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12** *sitting (see readings on last page)*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 103: 8-14** *read in unison*

**Hymn 142** *Lord, who throughout these forty days*

St. Flavian

*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 overpast,  
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!*

**Gospel:** *standing*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**The Sermon**

Robin Teasley

**Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent** *standing*

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.**

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

**Hymn 152** *Kind maker of the world*

A la venue de Noël

*Kind Maker of the world, O hear the fervent prayer, with many a tear  
poured forth by all the penitent who keep this holy fast of Lent!*

*Each heart is manifest to thee; thou knowest our infirmity;  
now we repent, and seek thy face; grant unto us they pardoning grace.*

*Spare us, O Lord, who now confess our sins and all our wickedness,  
and, for the glory of thy Name, our weakened souls to health reclaim.*

*Give us the discipline that springs from abstinence in outward things  
with inward fasting, so that we in heart and soul may dwell with thee.*

*Grant, O thou blessed Trinity; grant, O unchanging Unity;  
that this our fast of forty days may work our profit and they praise!*

**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.**

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** *standing*  
*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

### Greeting and Announcements

**Offertory Sentence**  
*Please remember while we are closed for in person services, you may mail your offering to the church office, or give online through your bank or our website.*

### The Holy Communion

#### The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give him 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 for ever say 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 for ever. **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 Breaking of the Bread

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

We pray together with those who are unable to receive communion.

**Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though not everyone can consume these gifts of bread and wine with us today, we thank you that we have received Christ’s presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ’s passion and resurrection. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we embody your love, be renewed for your service, and be reflections of the awakened and risen Lord. Amen.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *standing*  
Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### Blessing & Dismissal

**Hymn 143** *The glory of these forty days* Erhalt uns, Herr  
*The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, by whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.*

*Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;  
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.*

*So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions’ might;  
and John, the Bridegroom’s friend, became the herald of Messiah’s name.*

*Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full oft in fast and prayer with thee;  
our spirits strengthen with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.*

*O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, to thee be every prayer addressed,  
who art in three-fold Name adored, from age to age, the only Lord.*

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*If you would like to receive reserved sacrament, please contact the church office or Rev. Robin.*

Lay Reader: Jonathan Shockley  
Audio/Visual: Lee Adams, Bill Miller  
Cantor: Matthew Little

**WELCOME VISITORS:** We extend a warm welcome to our visitors today. If you would like to know more about our church, visit our website where you will also find links to our YouTube channels. You may also email us and we will be in touch. We are glad you are here.

Christ and Grace Episcopal Church  
1545 South Sycamore Street,  
Petersburg, VA 23805 (804) 733-7202  
[www.christandgrace.org](http://www.christandgrace.org)  
[churchoffice@christandgrace.org](mailto:churchoffice@christandgrace.org)  
[rteasley@christandgrace.org](mailto:rteasley@christandgrace.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristandGracePetersburg>

*Our mission: Offering Hope, Healing and Hospitality*

**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 judgments,  
 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 rear guard.  
 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.

**Psalms 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.

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

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."