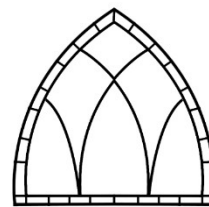


THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE REDEEMER
Shelby, NC



March 5, 2025 – Ash Wednesday
Holy Eucharist Rite II – 12:30pm and 7:00 pm

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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.*

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

¹Blow 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— ²a 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.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend 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. ¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the Presiders, 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.**

PSALM: Psalm 103

Remain seated.



- ¹Bless the LORD, O my ¹ **soul**, * |
and all that is within me, bless his holy ¹ **Name**. |
- ²Bless the LORD, O my ¹ **soul**, * |
and forget not all his ¹ **benefits**. ||
- ³He forgives all your ¹ **sins** * |
and heals all your in- ¹ **firmities**; |
- ⁴He redeems your life from the ¹ **grave** * |
and crowns you with mercy and loving- ¹ **kindness**; ||
- ⁵He satisfies you with good ¹ **things**, * |
and your youth is renewed like an ¹ **eagle's**. |
- ⁶The LORD executes ¹ **righteousness** * |
and judgment for all who are op- ¹ **pressed**. ||
- ⁷He made his ways known to ¹ **Moses** * |
and his works to the children of ¹ **Israel**. |
- ⁸The LORD is full of compassion and ¹ **mercy**, * |
slow to anger and of great ¹ **kindness**. ||
- ⁹He will not always a- ¹ **ccuse us**, * |
nor will he keep his anger for ¹ **ever**. |
- ¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our ¹ **sins**, * |
nor rewarded us according to our ¹ **wickedness**. ||
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the ¹ **earth**, * |
so is his mercy great upon those who ¹ **fear him**. |
- ¹²As far as the east is from the ¹ **west**, * |
so far has he removed our sins from ¹ **us**. ||
- ¹³As a father cares for his ¹ **children**, * |
so does the LORD care for those who ¹ **fear him**. |
- ¹⁴For he himself knows whereof we are ¹ **made**; * |
he remembers that we are but ¹ **dust**. ||
- ¹⁵Our days are like the ¹ **grass**; * |
we flourish like a flower of the ¹ **field**; |
- ¹⁶When the wind goes over it, it is ¹ **gone**, * |
and its place shall know it no ¹ **more**. ||
- ¹⁷But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who ¹ **fear him**, * |

and his righteousness on children's ¹ **children**; |
¹⁸On those who keep his ¹ **covenant** * |
and remember his commandments and ¹ **do them**. ||
¹⁹The LORD has set his throne in ¹ **heaven**, * |
and his kingship has dominion over ¹ **all**. |
²⁰Bless the LORD, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his ¹ **bidding**, * |
and hearken to the voice of his ¹ **word**. ||
²¹Bless the LORD, all you his ¹ **hosts**, * |
you ministers of his who do his ¹ **will**. |
²²Bless the LORD, all you works of his,
in all places of his do- ¹ **minion**; * |
bless the LORD, O my ¹ **soul**. ||

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's Second letter to the Church in Corinth.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.
²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *Bless the Lord, my soul* (WLP 825)

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn. The first staff is a vocal line in G major, 4/4 time, with lyrics: "Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life." The second staff is a piano accompaniment, also in G major, 4/4 time, with the same lyrics. The music is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 4/4.

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

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said,] ¹“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.

²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

LENTEN INVITATION

After the Sermon, all stand, and the Presider or Minister appointed 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.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

If ashes are to be imposed, the Presider says the following prayer

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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PSALM 51

Miserere mei, Deus

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, *

and my sin is ever before me.
⁴Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
⁵And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
¹⁰Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
¹²Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
¹⁶Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Presider 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 Presider 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 Presider 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.*

PEACE

The Peace is now exchanged

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Presider says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY HYMN *Jesus, lover of my soul* (H 69)

PRESENTATION HYMN *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* (H 380 v 3)

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 361)

The People remain standing.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds

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 sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Presider and People

**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.

The People stand or kneel.

The Presider continues

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:

Presider and People

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.*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Presider

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.

The Presider says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

All are invited to God's Table. If you wish to receive communion, please come forward to the altar rail on either side. You may consume the wafer and sip from the larger chalice, or you may intinct (dip) your wafer in the wine from the smaller chalice before you consume it. It is perfectly OK to consume only bread if that is your preference. If you do not wish to consume the bread and wine but would like to receive a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms across your chest. Please use the hand sanitizer that is

available up front or in your pew prior to coming to the altar rail. This will reduce the transmission of illnesses and protect those in our parish who are vulnerable. Thank you!

COMMUNION HYMN *Lord, who through-out these forty days* (H 142)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

**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.**

BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

The Presider blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *Be thou my vision* (H 488)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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