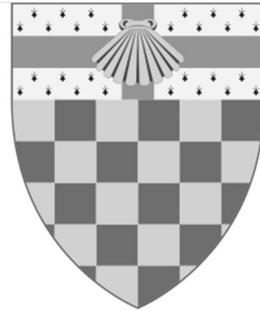


St. James'

Episcopal Church

LEESBURG, VIRGINIA



ASH WEDNESDAY

THE HOLY EUCHARIST
WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES

FEBRUARY 17, 2020

7:30 PM

14 Cornwall Street, NW Leesburg, VA 20176

703-777-1124

www.stjamesleesburg.org

Welcome!

Whatever your religious background, and however you have come to be here, we're glad to have you join in our praises of God today. We hope you will feel comfortable here and fulfilled, and strengthened spiritually to meet the challenges of your daily life.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time of reflection, repentance and turning our hearts to God in preparation for our journey through Christ's death and resurrection.

In keeping with the practice of the ancient people of Israel, early Christians used sackcloth and ashes as a sign of their repentance. Though the custom began as private devotion, by the eleventh century the reception of ashes as a sign of repentance had become a universal practice in the Western Church.

The earliest Christian rite associated with the wearing of ashes was the admission of public penitents. Those who expressed sorrow for their sins would wear ashes on their heads so that their fellow Christians might pray for them and welcome them back into the communion of the church before Easter. This rite of repentance and forgiveness has now been given to the whole church in the Ash Wednesday invitation to fast, pray and undertake acts of self-denial. In the Litany of Penitence we acknowledge our sins and pray for forgiveness and renewal of life, asking God to turn our hearts away from those things which separate us from God and from one another. We pray that by Christ's mercy, God's holy work may be accomplished in us.

The words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," are spoken to each person who receives ashes on this day. This mark is an embodied sign that we all stand before God as mortals and sinners; it is also a reminder of the forgiveness and redemptive love that God shows to each of us and to the whole world.

The Word of God

The service begins in silence

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays the collect. All respond AMEN.

The people are seated.

THE READING

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silence follows the reading.

PSALM 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.

The people stand to sing and remain standing for the Gospel.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE - 142 *stzs 1, 3 and 4*

Lord, who through-out 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 - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering 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 - bide.
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

HOMILY

The Reverend Earl Mullins

The people stand.

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT AND BLESSING OF ASHES

BCP p. 264

When the invitation has been made, all kneel as they are able for a period of silence. The people remain kneeling while the presider blesses the ashes. The people respond AMEN.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

All are invited to receive the imposition of ashes, which will be administered at the altar rail or standing station.

SONG

Please join the choir in singing the refrain

Dust and Ashes

David Haas

Dust and ashes touch our face, mark our failure and our falling
Holy Spirit come, walk with us tomorrow,
Take us as disciples, washed and wakened by your calling.

Refrain

Refrain

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the refrain. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Take us by the hand and lead — us,". The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "lead us through the des-ert sands, bring us liv - ing". The third staff concludes the phrase with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "wa - ter, Ho-ly Spir - it, come. —".

Dust and ashes soil our hands greed of market, pride of nation.
Holy Spirit come, walk with us tomorrow,
As we pray and struggle through the meshes of oppression. *Refrain*
Dust and ashes choke our tongue in the waste-land of depression
Holy Spirit come, walk with us tomorrow,
Through all gloom and grieving to the paths of resurrection. *Refrain*

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

All kneel, as able.

Most holy and merciful God: 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.

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 DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

BCP p. 269

The Celebrant prays the declaration of forgiveness, and the people respond AMEN.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

THE OFFERTORY

The people remain seated while an offering is collected to support the ministries of St. James'.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

arr. Hal Hopson

I want Jesus to walk with me.
I want Jesus to walk with me
All along my pilgrim journey.
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble Lord, walk with me.
When I'm in trouble Lord, walk with me.
When my head is bowed in sorrow
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When storms are raging, Lord, walk with me.
When storms are raging, Lord, walk with me.
When I am sinking, save my soul,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

African American Spiritual

The people stand to sing the presentation hymn and remain standing throughout the Great Thanksgiving.

The Holy Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Prayer A

BCP p. 361

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.

The Celebrant offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ, and in response we sing:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Sung by all.

Holy, holy, holy

Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's self-offering on the cross and prays over the bread and wine.

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 364

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

A PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart.

Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

THE SOLEMN PRAYER

Before we leave your table, O Lord, let us bow our hearts in prayer.

*The Celebrant prays the solemn prayer, which, according to ancient custom, replaces the final blessing during Lent.
The people respond AMEN.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN - 149

Sung by all.

Eternal Lord of love, behold your church

Old 124th

Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
far off yet here the goal of all desire.

So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living to your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and liveth with you in God.

If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the first-born of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground green shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flower,
so in the Father's glory shall we wake.

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Preamble

Louis Vierne

Monthly Mission Partner: Loudoun Cares

During February, we are praying for, learning about, and financially supporting Loudoun Cares. Since 2003, Loudoun Cares has been connecting residents in need with local nonprofits and agencies that can assist with a variety of health and human services that include rent/utility assistance, food, clothing, medical/dental, housing, job services and more. Loudoun Cares works closely with over 25 faith-based organizations to secure emergency financial aid for qualifying residents, especially needed during the current pandemic.

St. James' Episcopal Church is one of Loudoun Cares' faith-based partners who provides financial assistance to support our neighbors in need. If you are able and willing to support this worthy cause, you can make a gift in one of two ways:

- Send a check to the office, payable to St. James' Episcopal Church, noting Loudoun Cares in the memo line – before Sunday, February 28.
- Or make a gift online at <https://onrealm.org/StJamesChurchLeesburg/give/mission>

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