

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021

PRELUDE

Der am Kreuz

Robert Hobby

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT (*from Psalm 51*)

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love;

C according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

P Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

C For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

P Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

C wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

P Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

C Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

P Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

C and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.

OPENING HYMN

Just As I Am

Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me
and that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be Thine, yea Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Merciful God, accompany our journey throughout these forty days. Renew us by our baptism to provide for those who are poor, to pray for those in need, and to fast from self-indulgence, that we may find our treasure in the life of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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}a 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 priests, 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?'"

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:10

5 ²⁰We 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** ¹As 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

P Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus taught them, saying:] 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. ²So 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. ⁵And 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... ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁹Do 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

On my heart imprint Your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace,
that life's riches, cares, and pleasures never may Your work erase;
let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation!

SERMON

Rev. Scott Geminn

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER LITANY

P In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the
people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that
they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to
the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who seek to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who do good works in our midst, for those who assist in worship, for those who teach, for those who support us with their gifts of time and treasure, and for our life together in this community, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For deliverance from all affliction, danger and need, especially for those on our prayer line and those we remember now by name...(PAUSE), let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C Thanks be to God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

CLOSING PRAYER

P Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope. Let us pray:

Father in heaven, we acknowledge that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. Call us to repentance, mercifully pardon our sins, and bring us to new life. Bless this Lententide for us, that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Abide With Me

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
what but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Abide With Me

Clay Christiansen

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Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:

Lector Deacon Wendy Krolides

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