

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. HELENA



# ASH WEDNESDAY

Imposition of Ashes

February 17, 2021

Parish Established 1712 • Beaufort, South Carolina



# Imposition of Ashes

*Thank you for silencing your cell phone or electronic device.*

**Prelude:** Prelude in E Minor

F. Chopin

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People:** *His mercy endures for ever.*

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. In this manner, 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 that all Christians continually have to renew our 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 almsgiving; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And to make a right beginning, let us now pray for grace, that we may faithfully keep this Lent.

## Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you 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.**

**Gradual Hymn:** Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

*Beach Spring*

Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes  
As another Lent begins;  
Thus we kneel before our Maker  
In contrition for our sins.  
We have marred baptismal pledges,  
In rebellion gone astray;  
Now, returning, seek forgiveness;  
Grant us pardon, God, this day!

We have failed to love our neighbors,  
Their offences to forgive,  
Have not listened to their troubles,  
Nor have cared just how they live,  
We are jealous, proud, impatient,  
Loving overmuch our things;  
May the yielding of our failings  
Be our Lenten offerings.

We are hasty to judge others,  
Blind to proof of human need;  
And our lack of understanding  
Demonstrates our inner greed;  
We have wasted earth's resources;  
Want and suffering we've ignored;  
Come and cleanse us, then restore us;  
Make new hearts within us, Lord!

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

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

## **The Gospel:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

<sup>1</sup> Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. <sup>2</sup> Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup> And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But when 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.

<sup>16</sup> And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>19</sup> Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **The Homily**

**Anthem (12:00):** Turn Thy Face From My Sins

A. Sullivan

Turn thy face from my sins,  
And put out all my misdeeds.  
Make me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence,  
And take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

The Parish Choir

### **Blessing**

Officiant: Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God. Almighty God, you have created us from the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be for us a symbol of our mortality and a sign of our penitence, that we may remember that it is by your grace alone that we receive the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior.  
***Amen.***

*The officiant will explain the imposition of ashes.*

### **Psalm 51** *(Read in unison)*

- 1 ***Have mercy upon me, O God, in your great goodness; according to the multitude of your mercies wipe away my offences.***
- 2 ***Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.***
- 3 ***For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.***
- 4 ***Against you only have I sinned, and done this evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence, and blameless in your judgment.***

- 5 *Behold, I was brought forth in wickedness, and in sin my mother conceived me.*
- 6 *But behold, you desire truth in the inward parts and shall make me understand wisdom secretly.*
- 7 *You shall purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; you shall wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*
- 8 *You shall make me hear of joy and gladness, that the bones which you have broken may rejoice.*
- 9 *Turn your face from my sins, and blot out all my misdeeds.*
- 10 *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*
- 11 *Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy Spirit from me.*
- 12 *O give me the comfort of your help again, and sustain me with your willing Spirit.*

## Confession and Litany of Penitence

Officiant: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**People:** *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, through 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. 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.*

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

Officiant: For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience; for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy of our lives; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

Officiant: For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of those we think more fortunate than ourselves; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

Officiant: For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment; for all lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

Officiant: For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people, and our failure to give of ourselves in love; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

Officiant: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

Officiant: For our dishonesty in daily life and work, our ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure to heed your call. Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

Officiant: For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*



Officiant: For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

Officiant: For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt of others, and for all uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

Officiant: For our negligence in prayer and worship; for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

Officiant: For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of God; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

Officiant: For our failure to commend the faith that is in us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People:** *For we have sinned against you.*

**All:** *Show favor to your people, O Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath you remember mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare us; in the multitude of your mercies, look upon us and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## The Absolution

Officiant: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, desires not the death of sinners, but that they may turn from their wickedness and live. He has empowered and commanded his ministers to pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all who truly repent and genuinely believe his holy Gospel. For this reason, we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that our present deeds may please him, the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

## The Peace

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
***People: And with your spirit.***

## The Lord's Prayer

## Invitation to Lent

***All: O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart: that desiring you, we may seek you; and that seeking you, we may find you; and that finding you, we may love you; and that loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have delivered us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**Hymn:** Abide with Me

*Eventide*

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.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, 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 strength can be?  
Thro' cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou 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.

*The congregation departs in silence. The silence after the Invitation to a Holy Lent is an integral part of the rite, and should not be omitted or reduced to a mere pause. Other periods of silence may be observed to allow for meditation, self-examination, and prayer .*

## **Participating in the Service:**

The Rev. Shay Gaillard, Rector  
The Rt. Rev. Alden Hathaway, Bishop in Residence  
The Rev. Zach Miller, Assistant to the Rector  
The Rev. Jim Cato, Deacon  
Jeff Harbin, Choirmaster and Organist  
The Parish Choir

## **Our Vision**

St. Helena's will boldly proclaim the saving Gospel and Lordship of Jesus Christ, and through intentional discipleship, will raise up servant leaders and worshipping communities in Beaufort and beyond, seeing the Kingdom come.

## **The Parish Church of St. Helena**

AN ANGLICAN CONGREGATION

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