



# THE PARISH CHURCH

— AT HABERSHAM —



# ASH

WEDNESDAY

Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

*5:00 pm*

# Imposition of Ashes

*Please silence your cell phones.*

## Opening Hymn    Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

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!

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People: His mercy endures for ever.*

Celebrant: 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 alms-giving; 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.**

<sup>1</sup>Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near, <sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

<sup>12</sup> “Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. <sup>14</sup> Who 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 <sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup> gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. <sup>17</sup> Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say,

“Spare your people, O Lord,  
and make not your heritage a reproach,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,  
“Where is their God?””

**Psalm 103** Please read the psalm responsively by half verse

- <sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
***and all that is within me, bless his holy name!***
- <sup>2</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
***and forget not all his benefits—***
- <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity,  
***who heals all your diseases,***
- <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit,  
***who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,***
- <sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good  
***so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.***
- <sup>6</sup> The Lord works righteousness  
***and justice for all who are oppressed.***
- <sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses,  
***his acts to the people of Israel.***
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
***slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.***
- <sup>9</sup> He will not always chide,  
***nor will he keep his anger forever.***
- <sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
***nor repay us according to our iniquities.***
- <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
***so great is his steadfast love toward those  
who fear him;***
- <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
***so far does he remove our transgressions from us.***
- <sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children,  
***so the Lord shows compassion to those  
who fear him.***
- <sup>14</sup> For he knows our frame;  
***he remembers that we are dust.***
- <sup>15</sup> As for man, his days are like grass;  
***he flourishes like a flower of the field;***

<sup>16</sup> for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
***and its place knows it no more.***

<sup>17</sup> But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to  
***everlasting on those who fear him, and his  
righteousness to children's children,***

<sup>18</sup> to those who keep his covenant  
***and remember to do his commandments.***

<sup>19</sup> The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,  
***and his kingdom rules over all.***

<sup>20</sup> Bless the Lord, O you his angels,  
***you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the  
voice of his word!***

<sup>21</sup> Bless the Lord, all his hosts,  
***his ministers, who do his will!***

<sup>22</sup> Bless the Lord, all his works,  
***in all places of his dominion.***

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

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

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

**The Gospel:**

Mark 6:1-6 16-21

<sup>1</sup> “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.

**The Homily**

The Rev. Jamie Sosnowski

## **Blessing of the Ashes**

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.*

# Imposition of Ashes

Hymn:

Dust We Are and Shall Return

From dust we've come and,  
Dust we are and shall return.  
Be still my soul and let it go,  
Just let it go.

Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.  
Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.

Naked we came and shall,  
Return into the grave.  
Be still my soul and let it go,  
Just let it go.

Be still my soul,  
Lord make me whole,  
Lord make me whole.

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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.**

## Comfortable Words

## The Peace

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People: And with your spirit.*

## The Lord's Prayer

*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.*

## 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.*

*The congregation departs without the customary dismissal.*

## Thank You for Worshipping with Us!

- If you have any prayer requests or questions about the Christian faith, our Pastor, Jamie Sosnowski, is available at
- 843-817-5667 or at [parishchurchathabersham@gmail.com](mailto:parishchurchathabersham@gmail.com).
- If you would like to financially support our ministry, you can go to [TheParish.org](http://TheParish.org) and Click "Give" on the homepage.
- New to the Parish Church? Please let us know who you are by scanning this code with your phone's camera.

