



# The First Day of Lent

## Ash Wednesday

Church of the Holy Comforter – Vienna, Virginia  
The Holy Eucharist Rite II with Imposition of Ashes

March 2, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.

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*The liturgy follows the Book of Common Prayer, beginning at page 264.*

**OPENING VOLUNTARY:** Fantasy in C Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

### THE ENTRANCE

*The people stand as the procession enters the church.*

#### THE SALUTATION AND 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.**

### THE WORD OF GOD

**THE LESSON** [*The people are seated.*]

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow 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—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. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend 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. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather 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. Between 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?’”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 574** “Before thy throne, O God, we kneel”

*St. Petersburg*

*Sung by all, standing.*

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy 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 SERMON** The Rev. Jon C. Strand

*A brief period of silence is observed for reflection on the sermon. The people stand for the Invitation.*

**INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT**

*When the invitation has been made, all kneel 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.*

**PSALM 51:1-18** *Miserere mei, Deus*

*Tone IV.1*

*Sung by the choir.*

Antiphon: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.

- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**THE LITANY OF PENITENCE**

*The Priest 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 Priest 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.

*People* **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*Priest* 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.

*People* **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

*Priest* We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Priest* Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Priest* Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Priest* Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Priest* Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

*People* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Priest* 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,

*People* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Priest* For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

*People* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Priest* For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

*People* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Priest* Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

*People* **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

*Priest* Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*People* **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

*Priest* By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

*People* **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*The Priest stands and 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.**

**THE PEACE** [*The people stand.*]

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 and are then seated.*]

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*The people remain seated while an offering is received to support Holy Comforter’s work of sharing God’s love with the world. **Tonight you are invited to contribute to a Special Offering that will go to Holy Comforter’s Outreach Ministries. Please use the green envelopes in the pews to designate your offering to Outreach Ministries.** As the offering is brought forward to the altar, all stand.*

**AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM: “The paper reeds by the brooks”**


Randall Thompson

The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and everything sown by the brooks shall wither, be driven away, and be no more.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

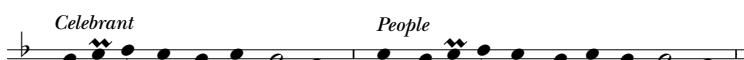
Prayer A, Book of Common Prayer, p. 361

*Celebrant*                      *People*




The Lord be with you.     And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*




Lift up your hearts.     We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*The Presider proceeds*

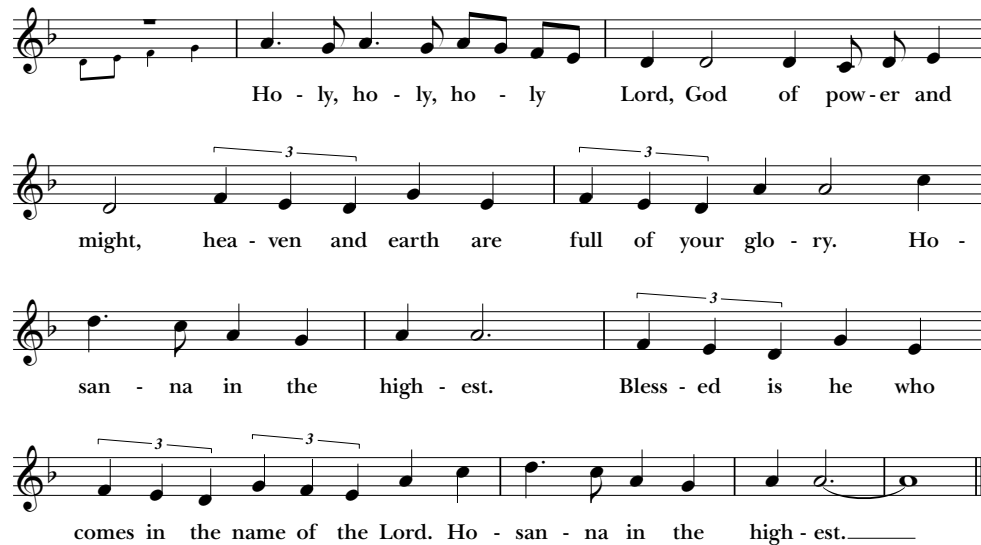
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [*The Presider continues.*]

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:

**SANCTUS, HYMNAL, S 129**

Robert Powell

*Sung by all.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

*The Presider continues and gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ and prays over the bread and wine.*

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
*People* **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### *The Presider continues*

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.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Presider* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
*People* **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

*Presider* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

### INVITATION *[The People are seated.]*

*As Jesus welcomed all to his table, so do we at Holy Communion. The bread and the wine are the central symbols of God's presence and we invite you to share in the Eucharist in whatever way feels comfortable to you, regardless of age or tradition. We also offer gluten-free bread—just let the priest know. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms in front of your chest. The Holy Eucharist is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, a mutual indwelling of Christ in us and us in him. Come to the table and be joined into Christ's ministry of love and reconciliation.*

### COMMUNION MUSIC *[Sung by all.]*

HYMN 674 "Forgive our sins as we forgive"

*Detroit*

### THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER *[Said by all.]*

**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.**

## THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used. The Presider says*

Bow down before the Lord. *[All kneel.]*

*The Presider continues with the prayer; the people respond*

**Amen.**

AT THE CLOSING, HYMN 149 "Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church"

*Old 124th*

*Sung by all, standing.*

DISMISSAL *[The people respond,]*

**Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Prelude in D Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach