

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Ash Wednesday

February 17 at 12:05pm and 7:30pm

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

**Gathering Music** *sung by the soloist at the 7:30pm service*

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness,  
and forgive me all my sin.  
For I acknowledge my faults  
and my sin is ever before me.

words: Psalm 51:2-3

music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

## The Collect of the Day

*On this day the liturgy begins in silence.*

Let us pray.

O God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive our sins even before we ask: Create in us clean hearts and restore a new spirit in us, so that as we confess our sins to you we may know ourselves to be forgiven in your great mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Lesson** *Isaiah 58:9-12a*

[Thus says 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."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 103:8-14** *chanted by the cantor*

O God, you are full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

You will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will you keep his anger for ever.

You have not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.

As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far have you removed our sins from us.

As a parent cares for a child, \*  
so do you care for those who fear you.

For you yourself know whereof we are made; \*  
you remember that we are but dust.

## The Epistle 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
Thanks be to God.

## Hymn at the Gospel



1. A - gain we keep this sol - emn fast, A  
5. We pray, O bless - ed Three in One, Our  
gift of faith from a - ges past, This Lent which binds us  
God while end - less a - ges run, That this, our Lent of  
lov - ing - ly To faith and hope and char - i - ty.  
for - ty days, May bring us growth and give you praise.

attr. to Gregory the Great (c. 540-604); tr. Peter J. Scagnelli (b. 1949)  
music: *Erhalt uns, Herr*, melody from *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543  
words © Peter J. Scagnelli  
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## **The Gospel** *Matthew 6:1-6,16-21*

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

**Glory to you, O 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, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon** *The Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-charge*

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

### **Invitation to Lent**

Dear People of God, the first Christians observed with devotion the days of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection; and it became the practice of the Church to prepare for them by a season of repentance and reconciliation. In this way, the whole congregation was conformed to the Gospel message of forgiveness, and reminded of the need which all Christians continually have to repent and renew their faith, and walk in newness of life.

Christ invites us now to the observance of a holy Lent. And to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before God, our maker and redeemer.

*All kneel, as able, for silent prayer.*

O God, you made us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be a sign to us of the gift of mortality and the blessing of repentance. You take delight in all you have created, from you comes our joy, our healing and our salvation, help us to trust in your mercy, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Imposition of Ashes** *chanted by the cantor at 12:05pm; sung by the choir at 7:30pm*

Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam;  
et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum, dele iniquitatem meam.

Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea  
et a peccato meo munda me.

Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco  
et peccatum meum contra me est semper.

Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, dedissem utique;  
holocaustis non delectaberis.

Sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus;  
cor contritum et humiliatum, Deus, non despicias.

Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tua Sion,  
ut aedificentur muri Jerusalem.

Tunc acceptabis sacrificium justitiae, oblationes et holocausta;  
tunc imponent super altare tuum vitulos.

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.*

*Wash me through and through from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.*

*Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.*

*The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

*Be favorable and gracious to Zion,  
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.*

*Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt-offerings and oblations;  
then they shall offer young bullocks upon your altar.*

words: Psalm 51:1-3, 17:20  
music: Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652)

## The Litany of Penance

*The People kneel, as able. The intercessor says*

God of mercy and compassion, we confess to you the rebellion of our hearts and the failings of our community.

*All pray in silence.*

We have sinned:

**Forgive and heal us.**

We turn away from the Gospel and mistreat each other. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

We deny our faith and lie to one another. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

We reject your love and ignore those who seek our help. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

We cling to idols and sacrifice others to protect ourselves. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

We are disobedient to your call to serve, and we guard our possessions. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

We misuse what you entrust to us and abuse your creatures. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

We turn from our neighbors and reject our responsibilities. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

We are afraid to be changed, and we envy other's gifts. We have sinned.

**Forgive and heal us.**

O God, you enter our lives when we are least prepared to receive you. Restore us to our right minds and give us your peace. Turn us from walking in the shadow of death to following the way of your life. Create in us clean hearts and for the sake of your love forgive us all our sins. We ask it for the sake of Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.*

## The Announcements *available at [stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning)*

### GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit [stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard), or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit [stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate).

**Thank you** for your generous support!



## The Offertory

*The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give in the "Giving to St. Paul's" box above.*

## Anthem at the Offertory *sung by the choir*

View me, Lord, a work of thine;  
shall I then lie drown'd in night?  
Might thy grace in me but shine,  
I should seem made of light.

Worldly joys, like shadows, fade  
when the heav'nly light appears;  
but the cov'nants thou hast made,  
endless, know not days, nor years.

In thy word, Lord, is my trust,  
to thy mercies fast I fly;  
though I am but clay and dust,  
yet thy grace can lift me high.

words: Thomas Campion (1567-1620)  
music: Richard H. Lloyd (b. 1933)

# The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God.

We find new life in you, fountain of hope and well of forgiveness. You seek us out and change our hearts of stone to hearts that love you and all you have made.

Joining with the angels, who sing your praises night and day, we give voice to every creature under heaven as we proclaim with joy:

## Sanctus and Benedictus

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.

setting: David Hurd (b. 1950)  
music © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.  
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*The Celebrant continues*

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.


Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.



Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await the fullness of Christ's coming. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O God, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

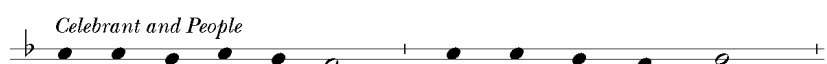
## The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant*

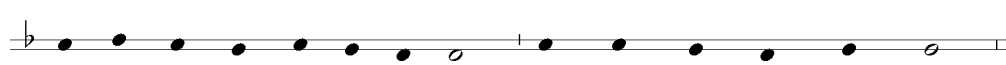


As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

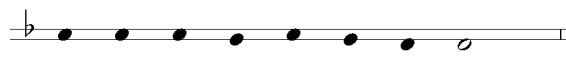
*Celebrant and People*



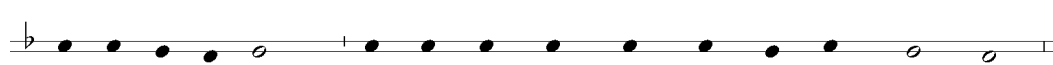
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



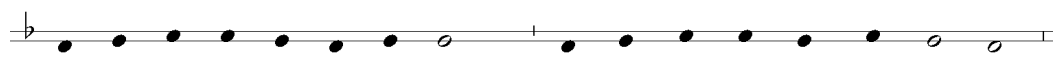
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



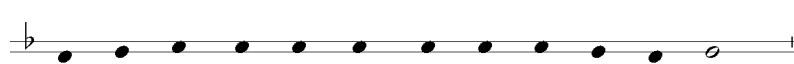
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.



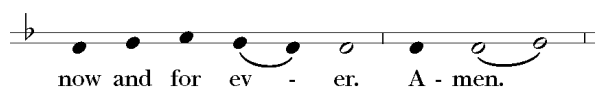
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,



now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: *Ambrosian Chant*, adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)  
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## The Communion

This is the Bread of Heaven,  
**Broken for the life of the world.**

*While the Celebrant communicates those in the church, the whole assembly shares in a time of reflection and prayer, contemplating the Presence of Christ in the gifts of bread and wine, along with the larger reality that we ourselves, along with all creation, are the Body of Christ. (Colossians 3:11)*

## Hymn at the Communion

1. \*Sun-day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an -  
 2. We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of -  
 3. We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to

oth - er Lent be - gins; thus we kneel be - fore our Mak - er in con -  
 fenc - es to for - give, have not lis - tened to their trou - bles, nor have  
 proof of hu - man need; and our lack of un - der - stand - ing dem - on -

tri - tion for our sins. We have marred bap - tis - mal  
 cared just how they live, we are jeal - ous, proud, im -  
 strates our in - ner greed; we have wast - ed earth's re -

pledg - es, in re - bel - lion gone a - stray; now, re -  
 pa - tient, lov - ing o - ver - much our things; may the  
 sourc - es; want and suf - fering we've ig - nored; come and

turn - ing, seek for - give - ness; grant us par - don, God, this day!  
 yield - ing of our fail - ings be our Len - ten of - fer - ings.  
 cleanse us, then re - store us; make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

words: Rae E. Whitney (b. 1927)

music: *Beach Spring*, attr. to B. F. White (1800-1879); harm. by Ronald A. Nelson (b. 1927)

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## Prayer after Communion

*The Celebrant and People pray the final prayer together.*

Loving God,

**Take our broken body  
and make us one with the body of your Son.  
Give us the gift of grief and the hope of joy.  
Lead us through the dryness of these days  
to the wellspring of life,  
where our sorrow shall be turned into dancing  
and the darkness shall be light.  
We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Blessing and Dismissal

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk the way with us. So be generous in kindness and courageous in love.

And the blessing of the deep mystery we name God: Source of hope, Word of life, and ever-present Spirit of grace, be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Go forth, forgiven, loved, and free.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** *Christus, der uns selig macht* by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

# THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

St. Paul's on the Green

The Rev. Daniel Simons, *Priest-in-charge*

60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

[stpaulsnorwalk.org](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org) | [info@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:info@stpaulsnorwalk.org)