

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Ash Wednesday

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | MARCH 2, 2022 - 12:05 PM & 7:30 PM

PRELUDE

Adagio from Symphony No. 2, Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Please stand as the bell sounds. The procession on this day is in silence.



THE OPENING COLLECT

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 *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?'"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

He has 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 his mercy great upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

Plainsong

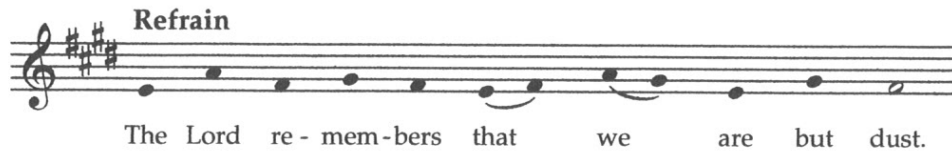
We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened 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 the People.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL PROCESSION *standing; all turn toward the Gospel as it is brought among the People.*

The Cantor sings the refrain, and the People repeat it.



Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

REFRAIN *all*

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

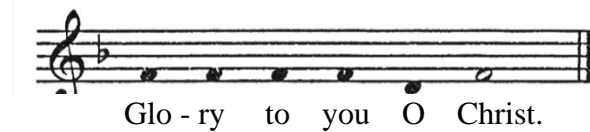
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

REFRAIN *all*

Words: Psalm 104
Music: *from Gradual Psalms for the RC.*, ed Bruce E. Ford
Copyright: Church Publishing Company

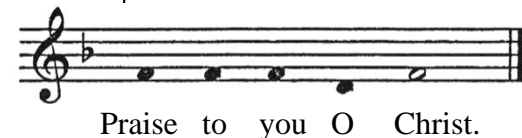
The Deacon or Priest intones:

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



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.



THE SERMON

seated

The Rev. Daniel Simons

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

INVITATION TO LENT *standing*

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 or bow, as able, for silent prayer.

The Celebrant blesses the ashes, saying

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*

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.
Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your
deliverance.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would
not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken
spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will
not despise.
Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt-offerings and whole burnt-offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Plainsong

THE LITANY OF PENANCE

The People kneel as able, or stand, for prayer.

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 with you.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with a distanced gesture to those nearby.

Giving to St. Paul's

The work and mission of St. Paul's is fully supported by the generous contributions of its members and friends. You can make a one-time offering or a sustaining gift to St. Paul's by visiting stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or text to give at 203-889-9983. For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/support.

Thank you for your support!



ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY *seated, sung by the Choir at 7:30*

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)

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY

1 O thou who cam - est from a - bove the fire ce -
 2 There let it for thy glo - ry burn with ev - er -
 3 Je - sus, con - firm my heart's de - sire to work, and
 * 4 Still let me prove thy per - fect will, my acts of

les - tial to im - part, kin - dle a flame of
 bright, un - dy - ing blaze, and trem - bling to its
 speak, and think for thee; still let me guard the
 faith and love re - peat, till death thy end - less

sa - cred love up - on the al - tar of my heart.
 source re - turn in hum - ble prayer and fer - vent praise.
 ho - ly fire and still stir up the gift in me.
 mer - cies seal, and make the sac - ri - fice com - plete.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.
 Music: Hereford, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of pow'r and might, Heaven and

6
 earth are full of your glo - ry. Hos - an - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

12
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

16
 in the high - - - - est.

Setting: James McGregor (b.1930)
 Music: *Verbum Caro facernest*, Hans LeoHassler (1565-1612)
 All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-709109

The Celebrant continues

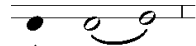
Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

People


A-men.

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 © 1985 Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-709109

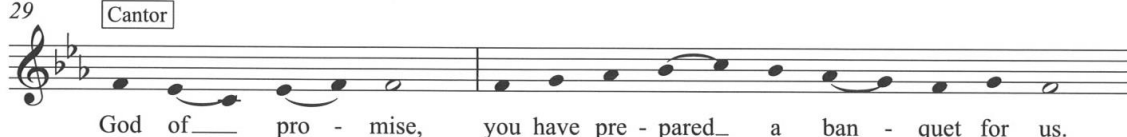
The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to communion, saying

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

THE COMMUNION

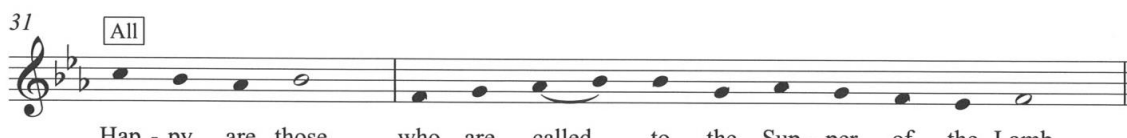
Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives. All sing together as the distribution of Communion begins.

29 Cantor



God of ___ pro - mise, you have pre - pared ___ a ban - quet for us.

31 All



Hap - py are those who are called ___ to the Sup - per of the Lamb.

Plainsong

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *standing*

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

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.**

HYMN IN PROCESSION

Unison or harmony

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

Words: Thomas H. Cain (b. 1931)

Music: Old 124th, melody Pseaumes octante trois de David, 1551; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

Copyright: Words: © 1982, Thomas H. Cain. Music: Harmonization © by The Church Pension Fund.

THE DISMISSAL

Go forth, forgiven, loved, and free.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten, J.S. Bach BWV 642

THE WORSHIP IS OVER – THE SERVICE BEGINS

ST PAUL’S ON THE GREEN – 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Priest in Charge*

Will Doreza *Interim Director of Music*

Josh Ehlebracht *Interim Organist*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*