

# HOLY EUCHARIST

*Ash Wednesday*

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | FEBRUARY 22, 2023 - 12:05PM & 7:30PM

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PRELUDE

*Improvisation on St. Flavian* - Josh Ehlebracht

*On this day the procession enters in silence.*



## 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.**

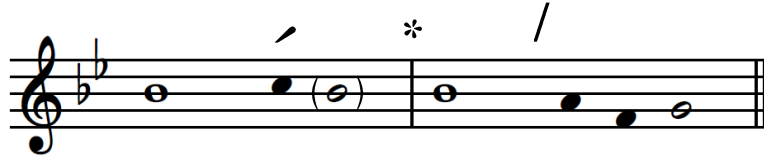
## THE LESSON     *seated*

*Isaiah 58:1-12*

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to 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. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**



You are full of compassion and **mércy**, \*  
slow to anger and / of great kindness.

You will not always **accúse** us, \*  
nor will you keep your anger / for ever.

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

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

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

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

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

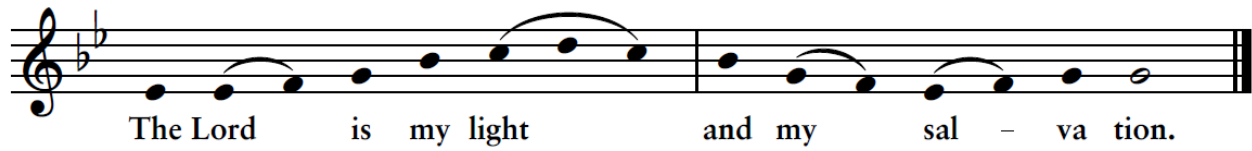
We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened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

*The Cantor sings the Refrain, and the People repeat it.*



Out of the depths have I called to you; O God, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O God, who could stand?

For there is forgiveness with you, \*  
therefore you shall be feared.

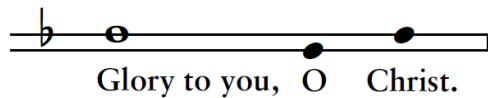
I wait for you, O God; my soul waits for you; \*  
in your word is my hope.

*All repeat Refrain*

Refrain: Will Doreza  
Psalm Tone: harm. Thomas Stolzer (1480-1526)

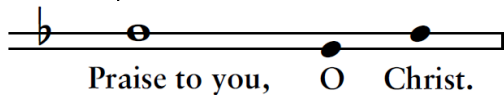
*All turn toward the Gospel as it is brought among the People.*

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.



SERMON

*The Rev. Daniel Simons*

*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 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      *sung by the Cantor or Choir*

*Psalm 51*

*Please come forward to receive ashes at the direction of the ushers.*

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.

Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again, \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O God, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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 shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

## 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 always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.*



**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](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard), or text to give at 855-934-1074  
For other means of giving, visit [stpaulsnorwalk.org/support](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/support).

**Thank you for your support!**

**MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY** *sung by the Choir at 7:30pm***Create a pure heart in me**

*Susan Matsui (b. 1959)*  
*Words: Psalm 51*

Create a pure heart in me, O Lord.  
Grant me a new and steadfast spirit.  
Do not drive me away from thy presence,  
or take thy Spirit from me.

Revive in me the joy of deliverance,  
Grant me a steady soul to uphold me.  
Open thou my lips, everlasting Lord,  
that my mouth may sing thy praises.

Thou takest no delight in sacrifice,  
nor hast thou any wish for whole offering.  
My sacrifice, Lord, is a broken soul,  
my offering, a contrite heart.

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY *standing*

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:

## SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of pow'r and might, Heav'n and

earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bles - sed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est.

Setting: James McGregor (b.1930), after *Verbum caro factum est*, Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

*The Celebrant continues*

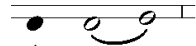
Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

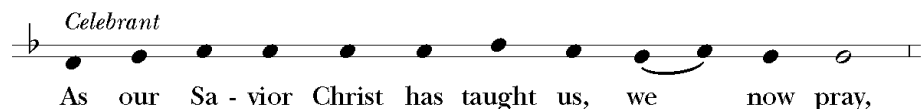
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await the fullness of Christ's coming. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O God, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all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

*People*

  
**A-men.**

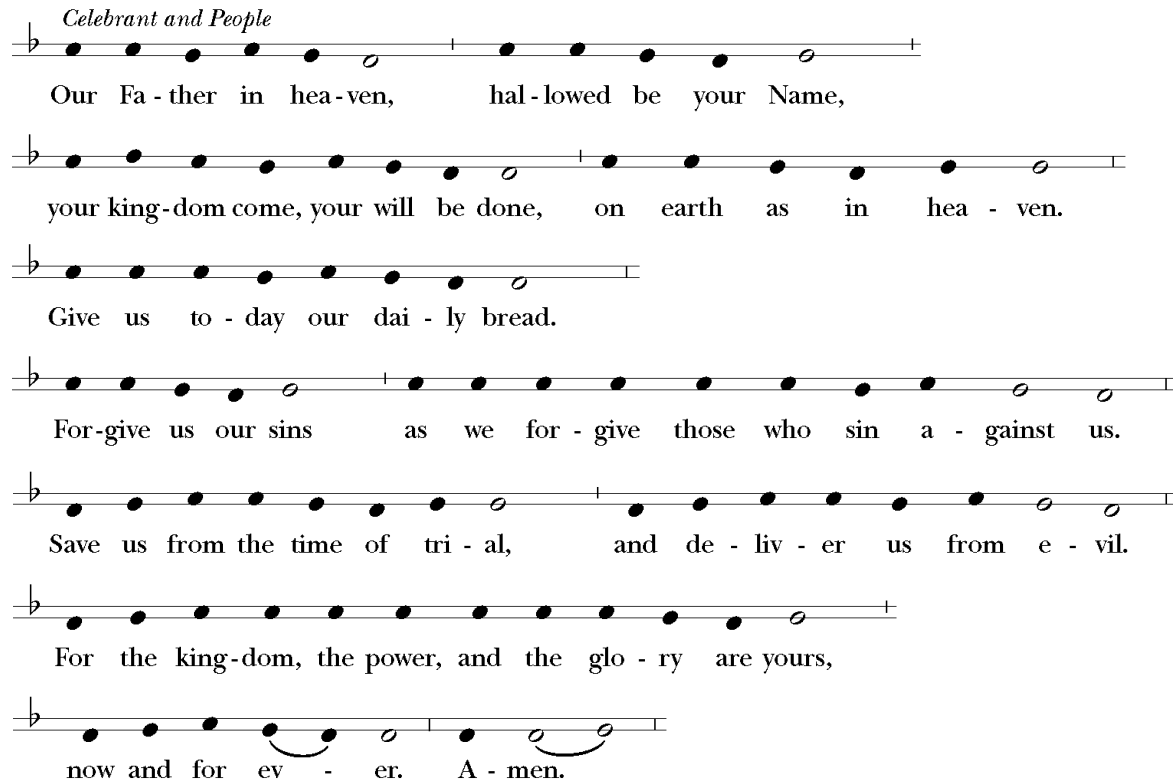
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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

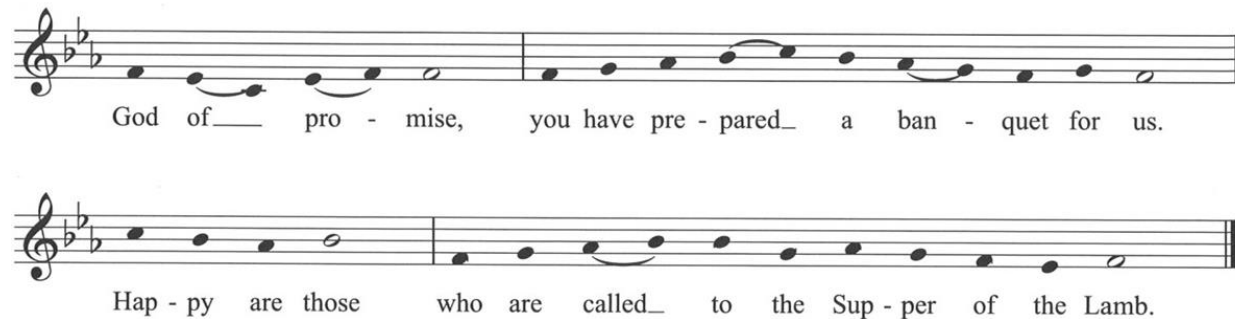
## THE COMMUNION

*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.**

*Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers.  
Gluten-free hosts are available upon request, grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups.  
Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives.*

*The Cantor sings the Fraction Anthem, and all repeat it.*



## MUSIC AT COMMUNION

**View me, Lord** *sung by the Choir at 7:30pm*

*Richard Lloyd (b. 1933)  
Words: Thomas Campion*

## THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *standing*

O God, you made us from the dust of the earth,  
and our lives are as brief as the grass of the field,  
yet you sustain us in the wilderness,  
and you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Now raise us up, and turn our faces toward you,  
that we may reflect the glory we behold  
and show Christ's love to the world  
in the power of the Spirit. 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 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 Psaumes octante trois de David, 1551; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

## THE DISMISSAL

Go forth and share the good news: God forgives us and sets us free.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Psalm 72* – Jacques van Oortmerssen (1950-2015)

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## THE WORSHIP IS OVER - THE SERVICE BEGINS

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

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 [info@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:info@stpaulsnorwalk.org)

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

The Rev. Louise Kalemkerian *Priest Associate*

The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

Will Doreza *Interim Director of Music*

Josh Ehlebracht *Interim Organist*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*

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