

# ASH WEDNESDAY



February 17, 2021

7 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

# Gathering: Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

“A New Commandment”

David Blackwell

Opening Hymn

686

## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my  
2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly



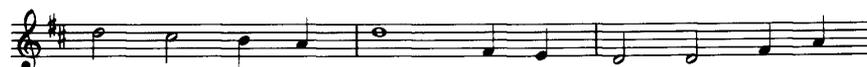
heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er  
by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good  
I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by  
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering  
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to



flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me  
from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from  
leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and



on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.  
dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), alt.

Music: Nettleton, melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813

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## Opening Acclamation

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*Officiant:* Blessed be the God of our salvation,

*People:* Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins. *Amen.*

## Collect of the Day

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*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Officiant:* 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.*

## Prayer of Confession

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*People:* Holy God, You called all that is into being and offered humanity life in all its fullness. Yet we have allowed good relationships to be broken. We have become distant from you and our neighbor.

**Lord, have mercy.**

At times we have failed to speak out for justice, leaving the voiceless without an advocate.

**Christ, have mercy.**

To all who fall short of God's glory you offer pardon and peace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

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*Officiant:* God is just and forgiving. God receives us as we are, lifts

us up and calls us again to be people upholding justice and peace. Receive God's pardon and peace, knowing that all sins are forgiven.

*People:*     **Thanks be to God!**

## **The Readings**

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The First Reading: 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.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### The Response: Psalm 103:8–14

8 **T**he LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

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

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

## The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

**W**e 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.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;  
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;  
 3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)  
 Music: *Eventide*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

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## The Gospel: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21



*Officiant:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

*People:* 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.”

*Officiant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## The Lifting Up of Laments

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*Officiant:* 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. Thereby, 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 which all Christians continually have to renew their 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 self denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept for a time, all kneeling.*

### Psalm 51

- 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.

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Officiant:* Holy God, hear the laments of your people. We cry out to you because nothing is as it should be. We are at home, away from the community of faith and heading into a time of solitude, still. We ask you to recognize our hurts, our sorrows, and our complaining. Wrap them into your tender loving arms and help us to dispel our fears. We pray in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*The bowl of laments will be laid on the altar at this time.*

## **Peace Litany**

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When peace is fragile, **stay with us, Lord.**

When tempers are raised, **stay with us, Lord.**

When atrocities occur, **stay with us, Lord.**

When forgiveness is rejected, **stay with us, Lord.**

When talks break down, **stay with us, Lord.**

When agreements are broken, **stay with us, Lord.**

When darkness weighs upon us, **stay with us, Lord.**

When we cannot see you, **stay with us, Lord.**

When burdens feel too heavy, **stay with us, Lord.**

When hope seems faint, **stay with us, Lord.**

When we are weak, **stay with us, Lord.**

When faith seems difficult, **stay with us, Lord.**

For all who have lost hope, **walk with them, Lord.**

For all who suffer, **walk with them, Lord.**

For all who are sick and in pain, **walk with them, Lord.**

For all who are struggling, **walk with them, Lord.**

For all who have been badly hurt in life, **walk with them, Lord.**

For all who are grieving, **walk with them, Lord.**

For all who are depressed, **walk with them, Lord.**

For all who feel rejected, **walk with them, Lord.**

For all who feel unloved, **walk with them, Lord.**

For all who are oppressed, **walk with them, Lord.**

For all who are anxious, **walk with them, Lord.**

## Credo for Peace

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*Officiant:* We believe in God:

*People:* A communion of three Persons,  
a communion of Life,  
a communion of Love,  
a communion of Peace.

We believe in Jesus:

God and human,  
Prince of Peace.

We believe in his Gospel,  
the Good News,  
God's message of peace.

We believe Jesus died,  
rose, and sent us the Holy Spirit  
so we could live in his peace.

We believe in Baptism,  
that makes us one family in Jesus,  
crucified and risen from the dead,  
to lead us to eternal peace.

He is our hope:

Through him, we pray for peace;  
with him, we work for peace.  
in him, we live for peace:  
the peace of God's children.  
To the glory of God. *Amen.*

## The Peace

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*Officiant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* And also with you.

Communion Hymn  
(See next page)

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain*

when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. \_\_\_\_\_

3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_

let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain*

when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. \_\_\_\_\_

Words: Afro-American spiritual

Music: *Let Us Break Bread*, Afro-American spiritual; arr. David Hurd (b. 1950)

10 10 with Refrain

*Officiant:* In union, O Lord, with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come

spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. *Amen.*

*All:* Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world  
by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace,  
and for the hope of glory. And, we pray,  
give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts  
we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you in holiness  
and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

## **Blessing**

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*Officiant:* May you be the hymnals of deep-rooted past in the night where star chants wisdom. May the songs whirl in minds sleep. May the flickering fires drum and Glow Divine, and in the Sunrise May God's infinite love embrace you with welcoming arms; as my child, my little one, it is in everything about you that I am pleased. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my  
 2. Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should  
 3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous  
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be

1. way, When sor - rows like sea - bil - lows roll;  
 2. come, Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,  
 3. thought— My sin— not in part, but the whole—  
 4. sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

1. What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to  
 2. That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -  
 3. Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no  
 4. The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -

1. say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
 2. tate, And has shed His own blood for my soul.  
 3. more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 4. scend, "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul, with my

soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Postlude

“Song 13”

Rebecca Groom Tevelde

### Servers

*Priest-in-Charge*

Rev. Annette Joseph

*Lector*

Kent Miller

*Organist*

Mary Miller

*Choir Director*

Randyn Heisserer-Miller

*Ministry Intern*

Joshua Smith

### Music reprint & broadcast licensing:

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#### *Assurance of Forgiveness:*

from “I Was in Prison and You Visited Me”  
 Worship Resources for Social Justice Sunday  
 posted on the website of the [The Social Justice Network](#).

#### *Peace Litany:*

from the [Archdiocese of Dublin](#) website ([Link](#))

#### *Credo for Peace:*

from the [Renfrew County Catholic District School Board](#) website ([Link](#))

#### *Final Blessing:*

by Deputy Cornelia Eaton, HOD Chaplain