



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

Ash Wednesday

March 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome! Wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Holy Communion.

The Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

On this day, the Ministers enter in silence. Please stand.

Opening Salutation

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures for ever.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you

And also with you

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.**

1st Lesson

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-14



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. **Refrain.**
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. **Refrain.**
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. **Refrain.**

2nd Lesson

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn: *Please stand* *Lay Me Low* Daniel Schwandt

The congregation is invited to sing Lay Me Low as the Gospel reader and acolytes process to the middle of the assembly.



Lay me low, where the Lord can find me, Lay me low, where the Lord can own me, Lay me low, where the Lord can bless me, Lay me low, Lord, lay me low.

The Holy Gospel *standing***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 congregation is invited to sing Lay Me Low again following the Gospel reading.

The Sermon *seated**The Rev. Mike Angell***The Exhortation** *standing**Prayer Book, p. 264*

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.

All are invited to kneel as they are able, or alternatively to sit.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

*Those desiring to receive the imposition of ashes, please come forward to the Communion Rail.
Please use the side aisle to return to your seat.*

Psalm 51 *chanted by soloist*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 266

Litany of Penitence *The Celebrant 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.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

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

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 *standing*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Anthem

Wash Me Thoroughly

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me

The Great Thanksgiving *Prayer B*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 367

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The presider offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ.

In response all sing:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presider gives thanks to God for the redeeming work of Christ, and remembers the last supper between Jesus and his disciples. The people are invited to respond to the words:

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The presider concludes with prayer for the Holy Spirit to sanctify the bread and wine, and the gathered congregation. The Eucharistic prayer concludes with a plea for the coming of the Reign of God.

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.

Great Amen *We sing the “Amen” to the tune of “Lay Me Low” (see p. 3).*

The Lord’s Prayer

**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

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

Administration of the Sacrament

You are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the consecrated bread and wine. If you would rather receive a blessing, please come forward to the altar rail during communion and cross your arms across your chest. Gluten free wafers are available, on request, from the minister.

Hymns During Communion:

I Surrender All

LEVAS 133

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

LEVAS 70

Post Communion Prayer *please kneel or stand*

Book of Common Prayer, p.365

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 Blessing:

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Exit Hymn

Down Ampney

Hymnal 516

The Dismissal:

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Larghetto in F-sharp minor

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Worship Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher

The Rev. Mike Angell

Lectors

Mary Haggerty, Ellis Anderson

Chalice

Karen Payne

Crucifer

Scott Ferguson

Acolytes

Chloe Olliff, Amanda Willingham

Usher/Greeter

Corinne & Pierce Lamberson

Announcements

Pilgrimage, March 4 & 11 (10:00am-3:00pm) Are you new to Holy Communion? To the Episcopal Church? To Christianity? Are you just looking to know more about the tradition? Join us for Pilgrimage our course exploring themes in Christian thought and practice through the Episcopal tradition. This class is especially suited for newcomers, but it is open to all who are exploring. Lunch will be served; RSVP to the parish office (314-721-7401 or office@holycommunion.net).

Adult Forum – Sunday, March 5 (9:15am) Debbie Morris Smith will provide an update on the ongoing refugee crisis and its impact on St. Louis, followed by a discussion of innovative ways Holy Communion might engage this issue.

Diocesan Youth Lenten Event - Saturday, March 4, 2017 (5:00pm to 8:30pm)
Cross, Bridge, Cathedral: Walking with Jesus in Jerusalem, Selma, Missouri, and beyond

The Diocesan Youth Advisory Council is holding a new Lenten event at Holy Communion for all youth in grades 6-12. We will watch the movie "Selma" and connect the events of that turbulent time in America's history with the Stations of the Cross, and will talk about how we can continue to follow the way of Jesus in our lives today. Register online at www.diocesemo.org/making-disciples/youth-ministry/

Contemplative Prayer During Lent – Mondays (5:30-6:00pm, in the chapel)

A small group of folks are planning to gather on Mondays at 5:30pm during Lent in the Holy Communion Chapel (enter through the main door, and come through the church to the chapel for Contemplative Prayer. We will start at 5:30 with 10 minutes of instruction; at 5:40 we will sit for 20 minutes of practice together. If you are interested or have questions, contact Mary Haggerty at celts6@att.net

Theology on Tap – March 7 "I was a stranger: Faith, Immigration, and Refugees" (6:30pm) Debbie Morris Smith, volunteer coordinator for the International Institute of St. Louis (and wife of Bishop Smith of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri) will lead us in a discussion about faith, welcome, and borders. Theology on Tap seeks to create a "low pressure" environment for conversations about faith, ethics, politics, and life. Join us and bring friends. We gather the 1st Tuesdays every month at Dressell's Pub (419 N Euclid Ave. 63108.)

Wednesday Book Group during Lent – Wednesdays (11:00am)

Include the Wednesday Book Group in your Lenten discipline. We'll meet weekly during Lent for a study of Madeleine L'Engle's "A Circle of Quiet" before attending the noonday Eucharist (in the chapel), followed by a lunch of soup and bread. All are invited!

Sunday Morning Breakfast Hot breakfast is served on Sundays in Mitchell Parish Hall at 9:00. Suggested donations of \$2 per person (\$5 family max.) will be gratefully received, except visitors or newcomers whom we welcome as guests. **Cooks/hosts are needed!** Sign-up at the start of the buffet line. Contact David Motherwell for more info or to sign up (314-602-5383 or dmothe5626@aol.com).

Dates to Remember

- March 4 Men's Prayer Group
- March 12 Sunday Book Club: Of Mice and Men (11:45am)
20s & 30s Brunch (12:15pm)
- March 15 FaithQuest (6:30pm)

Lord, hear our prayer...

Betty Adams

Ron Bullock

Larry Bushon

Henry Cummings

Gayle Danielson

Angeleen Gamache

Sara Green

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Regina Hoernschemeyer

Doris Jones

Jim Krieg

Ernie Last

Bryan Miller

Erin Murphy

Chris Nawrocki

Amy Ondr

Alma Shuler

Marylen Stansberry

Jerry Taylor

Eduardo Teming

To request prayers for a family member or yourself, or remove a name from the list, contact the parish office at 314-721-7401.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

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