



Ash Wednesday

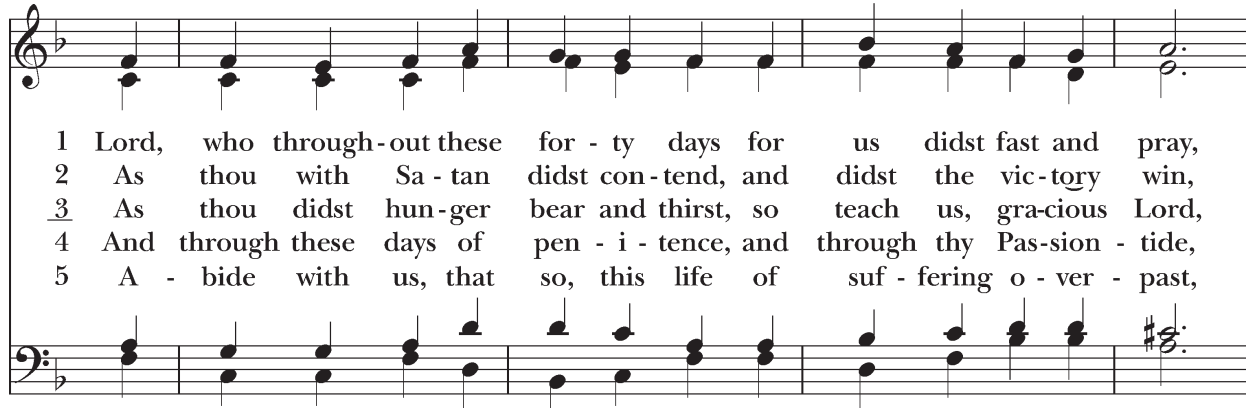
February 17, 2021

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☩ Richmond, Virginia

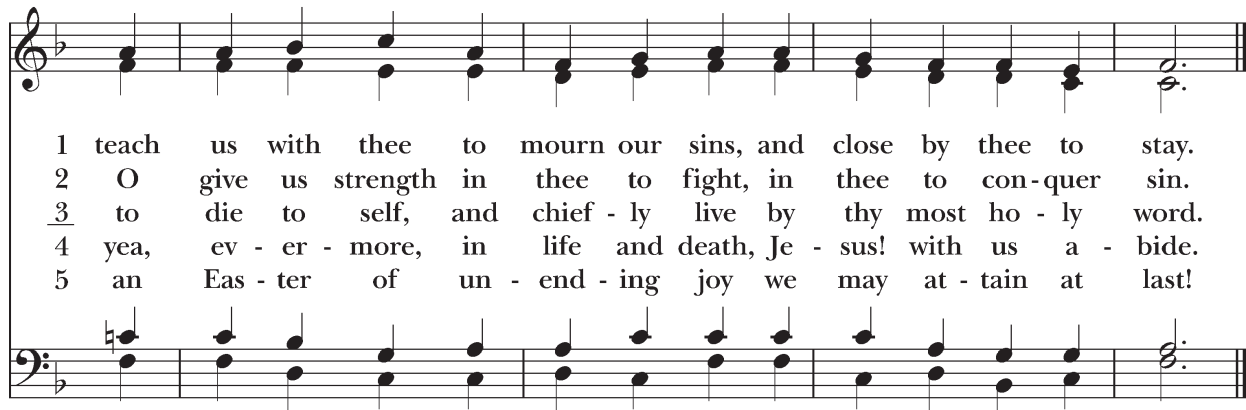
Hymn 142

Lord, who throughout these forty days

St. Flavian



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,
3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,
5 A - bid with us, that so, this life of suf - fer - ing o - ver - past,



1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bid.
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 264

Priest The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Priest 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.**

The Gospel Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily The Rev. Gary D. Jones

The Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

Prayer Book, page 264

Priest

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.

Prayer over the ashes

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.**

You may say these words as you make the sign of the cross on your own, or someone else's forehead.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Psalm 51

Prayer Book, page 266

- 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.

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.**

Priest 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.

People **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Priest 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.

People **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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

Priest Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
People **We confess to you, Lord.**

Priest Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
People **We confess to you, Lord.**

Priest Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
People **We confess to you, Lord.**

Priest Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
People **We confess to you, Lord.**

Priest 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,
People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Priest For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Priest For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Priest Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
People **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Priest Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
People **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Priest By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
People **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

Prayer Book, page 360

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Kelsey Snyder, soprano

*Quisquis eris qui transieris,
Perlege, sta, et plora;
Eram ut es, eris ut sum;
Pro me, precor, ora.*

*Whoever it is that passes here
Read this, stop, and shed a tear
I was as you are, and you shall be
What I am now. Pray for me.*

*From the tombstone of James Galwey d. 1627,
St Multose Cathedral, Kinsale.*

Participants

HOMILIST: The Rev. Gary Jones; **CLERGY:** The Rev. Cate Anthony, The Rev. Claudia Merritt, The Rev. Will Stanley;
READERS: Mae Wallace Angus, Lee Reid; **CANTORS:** Stephanie Hill, Kelsey Snyder; **THE PEACE:** Oliver Green;
MUSICIANS: **Soprano:** Stephanie Hill, Abby Outlaw, Kelsey Snyder; **Alto:** Katie Fessler, Claudia Kessel, Martha Prewitt, Alyssa Shevchuk; **Tenor:** Chris Edwards, Matt Hassmer, Margee Krebs, Joe McDonald; **Bass:** Malcolm Hines, Travis Krickovic, Christopher Lindbloom, Ian Richardson, Jim Smith-Parham; Brent te Velde, organ and piano; **ALTAR GUILD:** Fern Newsom, Anne Burnett