

The First Day of Lent  
**Ash Wednesday**

February 17, 2021

11:30am



**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

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Honolulu, HI 96813

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*The service begins with the salutation. Please stand.*

*Presider* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **His mercy endures for ever.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Hymn**

***Forgive our sins as we forgive***

**Hymn #674**

“Forgive our sins as we forgive”  
you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew,  
how small the debts men owe to us,  
how great our debt to you.

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, reconciled to God and man,  
our lives will spread your peace.

Words: Rosamond E. Herklots (b.1905) Music: *Detroit*, from *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, 1820

## **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.

Here ends the reading.

## **The Holy Gospel**

**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 Homily**

**Pastor Diane**

## **The Invitation**

*All stand. The people are invited to the observance of a holy Lent:*

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 (*as we are able*) before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All may kneel or be seated.*

*Silence is kept.*

**Psalm 51** *Presider and People*

**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 Lord, 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.**

**Litany of Penitence**

*The Presider reads:*

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.

*The Presider speaks to the congregation:*

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 God's people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins.

God pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech God to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit, that we may do those things that are pleasing to God 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.**

## **Music Meditation**

### **The Liturgy of the Eucharist (Eucharistic Prayer A)**

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

*Presider*      Lift up your hearts.  
*People*        **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*        **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider*      It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore we praise

you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Presider and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel. The Presider continues*

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all. Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.  
*Amen.*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
*People and Presider*

**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**

*Presider and People*

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.**

### **Post Communion Prayer** (*Standing or kneeling*)

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**Almighty and everliving God,**

**we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food**

**of the most precious Body and Blood**

**of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;**

**and for assuring us in these holy mysteries**

**that we are living members of the Body of Christ,**

**and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, send us out**

**to do the work you have given us to do,**

**to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Benediction**

**Organ Postlude**

**Dismissal**



**LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES Wednesdays, 10:00am, by ZOOM**

Study of the Bible readings for the coming Sunday

Contact Pastor Diane for the link.

**Lenten Jazz Vespers, 6:00pm**

*Join us during Lent on Thursday evenings*

Feb. 18, 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr. 1

**Lenten "Mite" Offerings** - During the Lenten season, we typically distribute Lenten offering boxes ("mite" boxes) in which to place coins and bills throughout the weeks of Lent. At the end of Lent, we return the boxes, add up the money, and divide the total between Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) and Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM). During this time of the pandemic, we encourage you to make your own Lenten offering box at home and at the end of Lent to give your donation to ERD or EMM or both through their websites or by direct mail. Addresses will be provided at the end of Lent.

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**Ministers at the Service**

The Rev. Diane Martinson, Presider

Dr. Joseph Eppink, Organist

Terry Dang, Live Streaming

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