



Texts for Worship -- Ash Wednesday

February 17th, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

To worship is to:

Quicken the conscience by the holiness of God,
Feed the mind with the truth of God,
Purge the imagination by the beauty of God,
Open the heart to the love of God,
Devote the will to the purpose of God. -- William Temple

Please observe silence in preparation for worship.

Entrance in silence

The Collect of the Day

Book of Common Prayer p. 264

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 First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

(Read by Worship Leader, Annette Barrelet Hays)

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 103:8-14

BCP p. 733

Sequence Hymn 140

Wilt Thou Forgive

*1. Wilt thou forgive that sin, where I begun, which is my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt thou forgive those sins through which I run, and do run still, though still I do deplore?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.*

*2. Wilt thou forgive that sin, by which I won others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun a year or two, but wallowed in a score?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.*

*3. I have a sin of fear that when I've spun my last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
swear by thyself, that at my death thy Son shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore.
And having done that, thou hast done, I fear no more.*

Author: John Donne, 1573-1631 Tune: DONNE Composer (melody and bass): John Hilton, 1599-1657
Harmonizer: Roy F. Kehl, b. 1935 Harmonizer: Elizabeth Poston, b. 1905

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

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

The Homily

The Rev. Dr. Kent R. Walley, Rector

The Invitation to a Holy Lent *(all stand)*

BCP 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.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

Prayer Remembering our Mortal Nature

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that on this day we may remember 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.

Silence is then kept

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

*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.*

Litany of Penitence

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.

(The Celebrant continues)

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

The Peace of the Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

Announcements

Offertory Anthem *Lead me, Lord*

S. S. Wesley (1810-1876)

Concluding Prayers

Invitation to Prayer The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.*** Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

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That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful, ***We entreat you, O Lord.***

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill, ***We entreat you, O Lord.***

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses, ***We entreat you, O Lord.***

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world, ***We entreat you, O Lord.***

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ, ***We entreat you, O Lord.***

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Romans 15:13

Postlude *Attende Domine* by Jeanne Demessieux

(Previously recorded by Brian Harlow)