



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

ASH WEDNESDAY

HOLY EUCHARIST with IMPOSITION OF ASHES

February 14, 2024

7:00 AM



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT & WELCOME

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all the Coast Salish tribes.

NEW TO SAINT MARK'S?

Welcome to Saint Mark's Cathedral. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here! We invite you to complete a newcomer form, visit saintmarks.org/newcomers or connect with one of the clergy.

QUESTIONS?

Please ask one of the liturgical ministers. Restrooms are available in the narthex; all-gender restrooms are available in the northwest stairwell of the nave and on the 5th floor of Cathedral House, accessible by the elevator or southwest stairwell.

ABOUT THE LITURGY

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. We encounter God within worship and are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the hallmarks of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy literally is "the work of the people," and refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A bell bids all to stand, as able, as the ministers of the liturgy enter in silence.

COLLECT OF THE DAY *Ash Wednesday*

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 264

Presider 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.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated for the Liturgy of the Word.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 103:8–14 ♦ read by all in unison

Benedic, anima mea

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.

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.

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. ♦

READING

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

After a brief silence the Presider stands; all stand, as able, for the proclamation of the Gospel.

THE HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Assembly **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.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

All stand, as able.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 264

Presider **D**EAR 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 or bow before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All kneel, as able, for a period of silence, and remain kneeling while the Presider prays over the ashes. For those unable to kneel, a profound bow is an appropriate posture.

PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

Presider 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.

All **Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Everyone is invited to come forward to receive ashes, a sign of our repentance and mortality. If you need ashes brought to you at your seat, please let a minister of the liturgy know. Please be seated when you return to your pew.

PSALM DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES *Psalm 51 ♦ chanted by cantor*

Miserere mei, Deus

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 Book of Common Prayer, p. 267

Presider Most holy and merciful Father:

All 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.

Presider 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.

Assembly Have mercy on us, Lord.

Presider 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.

Assembly Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

Assembly We confess to you, Lord.

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

Assembly We confess to you, Lord.

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

Assembly We confess to you, Lord.

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

Assembly We confess to you, Lord.

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

Assembly We confess to you, Lord.

Presider 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,

Assembly Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Assembly Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Assembly Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Assembly Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Presider Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

Assembly That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Presider By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

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

Presider 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.

All Amen.

All stand, as able.

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Assembly And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY

An offering of money is received. All worshipping in person are invited to place their offering in the plates as they are passed through through the rows.

*For electronic giving options, visit saintmarks.org/give, or use the Venmo mobile app (@SaintMarksCathedralSeattle, or scan the code at right), or visit this link on your mobile device: <https://venmo.com/saintmarkscathedralseattle>. If Venmo asks you for a four-digit code, enter **2076**.*



All stand, as able.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer C, adapt.*

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 369

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

Assembly **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider God of all power, Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Assembly **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

Assembly **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Presider From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Assembly **Have mercy, dear God, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Presider Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of Mary his mother, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

Assembly **By his blood, Christ reconciled us.
By Christ's wounds, we are healed.**

Presider And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All **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.

Presider And so, Most gracious God, we who have been redeemed by Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Assembly We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Presider God of our kindred and their generation: God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; Deborah, Hannah, and Rebecca; God and Father of our Savior Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in your Son’s name.

Assembly Risen and ascended One, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Presider Accept these prayers and praises, O God, Most Merciful, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

All AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

In silence, the Presider breaks the consecrated bread.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Assembly Therefore let us keep the feast.

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All have mercy on us.

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All have mercy on us.

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ’s Table.

If you need communion brought to your seat, please let any of the liturgical ministers know.

Rice wafers for those who do not eat wheat are available; simply ask for one at the time of communion.

- ◆ *You are welcome to stand or kneel to receive communion.*
- ◆ *Hold out your hand to receive the bread and then eat. Guide the chalice of wine to your mouth and then drink.*
- ◆ *Intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is not available at this time.*
- ◆ *To receive a blessing instead of the bread or wine, simply cross your arms over your chest.*

All stand, as able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 366

Presider Almighty and everliving God,

All 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 your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE ASSEMBLY

Presider Let us bow down in the presence of God.

All bow their heads, and remain bowed as the Presider prays over the Assembly. All respond: Amen.

The ministers depart in silent procession. All remain standing until the dismissal.

DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

PRESIDER & PREACHER

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason



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