



# ASH WEDNESDAY



ANGLICAN CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA

HOLY DAY

## SEASONAL GREETING

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

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

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you 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.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near, <sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

<sup>12</sup> “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. <sup>14</sup> Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup> gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

<sup>17</sup> Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

OR

Isaiah 58:1-12

“Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup> Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God. <sup>3</sup> ‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup> Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. <sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose,

a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? <sup>6</sup> “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> 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 him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? <sup>8</sup> Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, <sup>10</sup> if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. <sup>11</sup> And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. <sup>12</sup> And 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 dwell in.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

## PSALTER VERSES

*(In said services, the psalm verses may be placed between the Epistle and the Gospel, with the congregation standing in*

*preparation for the Gospel. At services where there is a hymn or canticle before the Gospel, the psalm might be said between the Old Testament and Epistle, the people seated.)*

## Psalm 103 or 103:8-14

- (<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits:
- <sup>3</sup> Who forgives all your sin \*  
and heals all your infirmities,
- <sup>4</sup> Who saves your life from the pit \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness,
- <sup>5</sup> Who satisfies you with good things, \*  
renewing your youth like an eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD executes righteousness and judgment \*  
for all those who are oppressed with wrong.
- <sup>7</sup> He showed his ways to Moses, \*  
his works to the children of Israel. )
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
long-suffering and of great goodness.
- <sup>9</sup> He will not always chide us, \*  
neither will he keep his anger for ever.
- <sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- <sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so great is his mercy also toward those who fear him.
- <sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he set our sins from us.

- <sup>13</sup>As a father pities his own children, \*  
so is the LORD merciful to those who fear him.
- <sup>14</sup>For he knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.
- ( <sup>15</sup>The days of man are as grass; \*  
he flourishes as a flower of the field.
- <sup>16</sup>For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.
- <sup>17</sup>But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever and  
ever upon those who fear him, \*  
and his righteousness upon children's children,
- <sup>18</sup>Even upon those who keep his covenant \*  
and think upon his commandments to do them.
- <sup>19</sup>The LORD has prepared his throne in heaven, \*  
and his kingdom rules over all.
- <sup>20</sup>O praise the LORD, you angels of his, you that excel in  
strength, \*  
you that fulfill his commandment, and hearken unto the  
voice of his words.
- <sup>21</sup>O praise the LORD, all you his hosts, \*  
you servants of his that do his pleasure.
- <sup>22</sup>O speak good of the LORD, all you works of his, in all  
places of his dominion; \*  
praise the Lord, O my soul. )

## EPISTLE READING

### 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ,

be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup> We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup> by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

## Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But when 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.

<sup>16</sup> “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

<sup>17</sup> But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## OFFERTORY AND POST-COMMUNION SENTENCES

*(Drawn from verses of Holy Scripture, these sentences are chosen by the celebrant or preacher to reinforce the lessons or teaching of the day.)*

## PROPER PREFACE

*Lent*

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.

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*Sources:* The Collect of the Day is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The Psalm verses are taken from the New Coverdale Psalter of the BCP 2019. Scripture quotations are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.