



“Create and make in us new and contrite hearts.”

—*Book of Common Prayer, Ash Wednesday Liturgy, pg. 264*

ASH WEDNESDAY AND VALENTINE'S DAY

Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter. Easter is determined as the Sunday following the first full moon that happens on or after the March equinox, which is always March 21st in the Christian Church calendars. Lent is 40 days long, not including Sundays. This is why Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day this year. This is a rare occurrence! Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day shared the same date in 2018. It happened three times in the last century — 1923, 1934 and 1945. It will happen again in 2029, but that will be it for this century.

A poem by Kathy Keay speaks to the overlap of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day.

Love's Faithfulness

You offer comfort
in affliction.
Within the wasteland of my pilgrim heart
you stand radiant.
Moving forward,
dust blown through the years
facing every onslaught
wiping every tear
defusing every deception
disarming vanity
confronting pride —
idolatry of any kind —
seemingly lost amidst unbelief
and the pain and turmoil of past years
and recent grief,
yet here you stand.
With you I emerge
burnt
yet more vulnerable
more real.

How does this poem speak both to the lenten invitation to delve deeper into the God who is love, as well as to the original kindnesses and expressions of love behind all the glitz of Valentine's Day? During Lent may this poem, and other prayer and reflection at St. Francis and in your own life, lead you to ponder the mystery of the God who is.

THE ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

Please wait in silence for the service to begin.

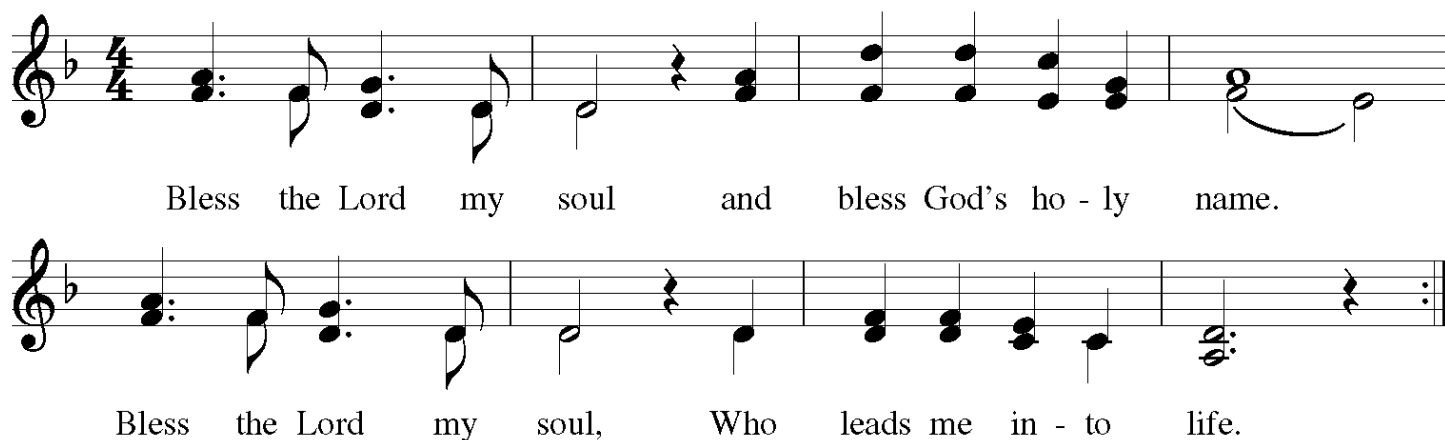
MEDITATION HYMN *Sit*

This Taize song serves as a sung meditation that quiets the mind and makes the body more present to the worship about to begin.

HYMN

BLESS THE LORD MY SOUL

WLP 825



Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

Please stand as the altar party enters in silence.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

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, 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.

People **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD *Sit*

THE FIRST LESSON

Reader

A reading from Joel.

2:1,12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion!

Cry the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land quake,

for the day of the Holy God is coming, it is near.

Yet even now, says the Holy One,

return to me with all your hearts,

with fasting, with weeping, and with lamenting.

Tear your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Holy One, your God,

for God is gracious and loves as a mother,

slow to anger, and abounds in faithful love,

and reluctant to impose harm.

Who knows whether God will not turn and relent,

and leave a blessing behind,

for a grain offering and a drink offering

to the Holy One, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly.

Gather the people:

Sanctify the congregation;

assemble the aged;

gather the children,

even breastfeeding babies.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,

and the bride her canopy.

Between the portico and the altar

let the priests, the ministers of the Holy One, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, Holy One,

and do not offer your heritage as a mockery,

a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,

'Where is their God?'"

Fear not, O land!

Be glad and rejoice,

for the Holy One has done great things!

Fear not, O animals of the field!
For the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree lifts up its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their riches.
The Word of the Lord.

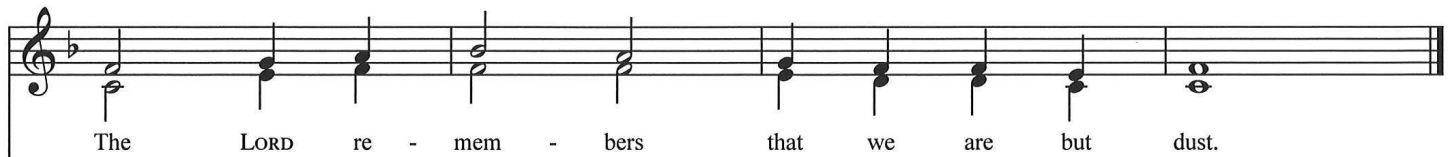
People

Thanks be to God.

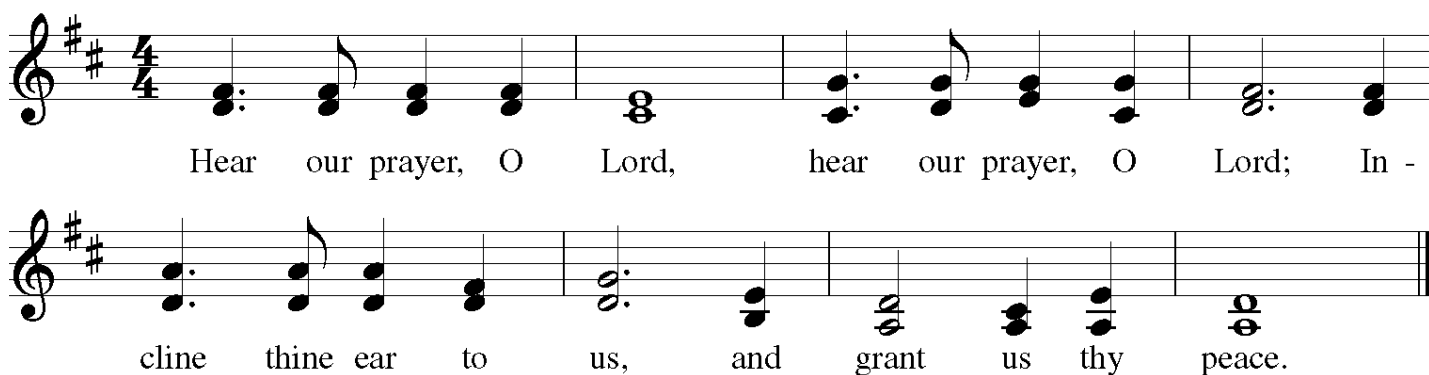
THE PSALM OF THE DAY

103

The congregation sings the antiphon one time through before the spoken verses.



- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. **ANTIPHON**
- Antiphon: *The Lord remembers that we are but dust.***
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us. **ANTIPHON**
- 13 As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust. **ANTIPHON**

Sing two times.**THE GOSPEL**

Deacon

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

6:1-6,16-21

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.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

GOSPEL HYMN

Sing the Gospel Hymn on previous page one time.

HOMILY

THE REV. LAURIE ANZILOTTI

IMPOSITION OF ASHES *Stand*

Presider 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—a turning toward God. As a mark of our earthly, finite nature, let us now pause in silence before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept for a time, standing or kneeling.

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.

People **Amen.**

The Presider invites the congregation to come forward and imposes ashes using the following words:

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

After receiving the ashes, please be seated.

Sung repeatedly during the imposition of ashes.

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r.

When I call, an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r. O

Lord hear my pray'r, Come and lis - ten to me. O

LITANY OF PENITENCE *Presider and People all standing or kneeling together*

Presider and People

Most holy and merciful One:

**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.**

Presider Have mercy on us, Lord.

People **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.**

Presider Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

Presider We confess to you, Lord.

People **Our self-indulgent ways, and our exploitation of other people,**

Presider We confess to you, Lord.

People **Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,**

Presider We confess to you, Lord.

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

Presider We confess to you, Lord.

People **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,**

Presider Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Presider Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Presider Accept our repentance, Lord.

People **Restore us, good Lord,**

Presider Favorable hear us, for your mercy is great.

People **Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,**

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

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

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

Presider God, Loving Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ, you don't desire the death of sinners, but rather that they turn to you and to life. You have given power to your ministers to declare and pronounce to your people, when they are penitent, that they are absolved of sin. We ask you to pardon and absolve all those who truly repent. Grant us true repentance and through the Holy Spirit, that we may please you this day, and that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, so that at the last we can come to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

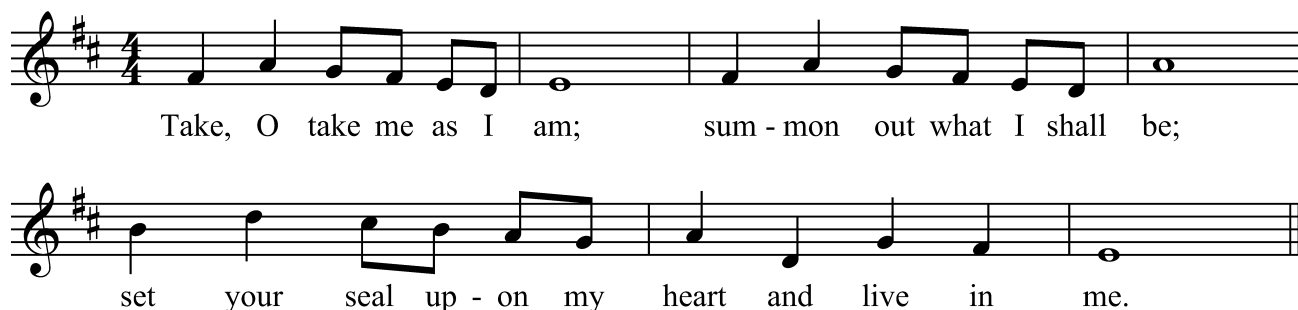
People **Amen.**

PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We invite you to extend the peace of God to those in the congregation.



EUCCHARIST

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 God thanks and praise.**

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

People **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.

People **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 rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, 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 a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us.**
By his 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:

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.**

Presider And so, God, we who have been redeemed by him, 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 Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he 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, he 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 many 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,

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

Presider Lord God of our Ancestors: God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah, and of Jacob, Leah and Rachel; God of our Lord 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 his name.

People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Presider Accept these prayers and praises, Father, 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.

People **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People **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

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.
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.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Our bread is gluten-, dairy– and nut-free. This Eucharistic table does not belong to the Episcopal Church or to St. Francis'. This is God's table, and all are welcome. In the Episcopal Church, we receive both the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. If you choose not to receive communion, please come forward and cross your arms over your heart to receive a blessing.

*Piano only***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER***After all have received communion the Presider says*

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Presider This is the day we freely say we are scorched. This is the hour we are marked by what has made it through the burning. This is the moment we ask for the blessing that lives within the ancient ashes.

Just as God's hands formed the dust in creation, bringing the blessing of human life, may we too go out to the world with blessing of the Creator, the Word, and the Abiding Spirit.

People **Amen.****SENDING HYMN****CHANGE MY HEART O GOD**

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.
Last time / Última vez.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the Pot - ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. D.C.

DISMISSAL

Presider Renewed in our commitment to return to the Ageless God of mercy, let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**