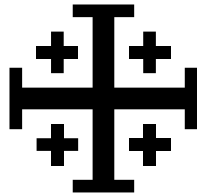


The Solemn Liturgy of

ASH WEDNESDAY

*Imposition of Ashes &
Holy Communion*



Christ Church Shelburne

As the Priest enters, this Psalm is said:

BE merciful to me, O God, be merciful, for I have taken refuge in you; **in the shadow of your wings will I take refuge until this time of trouble has gone by.** I will call upon the Most High God, **the God who maintains my cause.** He will send from heaven and save me; he will confound those who trample upon me; **God will send forth his love and his faithfulness.** I lie in the midst of lions that devour the people; **their teeth are spears and arrows, their tongue a sharp sword.** They have laid a net for my feet, and I am bowed low; **they have dug a pit before me, but have fallen into it themselves.** Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, **and your glory over all the earth.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, **and your glory over all the earth.**

Then the Priest says:

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Officiant invites the People to the observance of a holy Lent, either here or following the sermon, saying

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. In this manner, 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 that all Christians continually have to renew our 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 alms-giving; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

And to make a right beginning, let us now pray for grace, that we may faithfully keep this Lent.

The Officiant and people kneel. A period of silent prayer follows.

The Officiant then says

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.**

THE LESSONS

The Lector reads **JOEL 2:12-19.**

All stand for the Gospel, and the Deacon or Priest reads it, first saying

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

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

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

PENITENTIAL PSALM & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The Officiant says

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of
God.

If ashes are to be imposed, the Officiant says

ALMIGHTY God, you have created us from the dust of
the earth: Grant that these ashes may be for us a
symbol of our mortality and a sign of our penitence, that we
may remember that it is by your grace alone that we receive
the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Then ashes are imposed with the following words

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

PSALM 51

All kneel. Psalm 51:1-17 is sung or said.

- 1 Have mercy upon me, O God, in your great goodness; *
according to the multitude of your mercies wipe away my
offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness * and cleanse me
from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults, * and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned, and done this evil in your
sight, * so that you are justified in your sentence, and
blameless in your judgment.
- 5 Behold, I was brought forth in wickedness, * and in sin my
mother conceived me.
- 6 But behold, you desire truth in the inward parts * and shall
make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 7 You shall purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; * you
shall wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 You shall make me hear of joy and gladness, * that the bones
which you have broken may rejoice.
- 9 Turn your face from my sins, * and blot out all my misdeeds.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, * and renew a right spirit
within me.
- 11 Cast me not away from your presence, *and take not your
holy Spirit from me.
- 12 O give me the comfort of your help again, * and sustain me
with your willing Spirit.
- 13 Then shall I teach your ways unto the wicked, * and sinners
shall return unto you.
- 14 Deliver me from blood-guilt, O God, the God of my salvation,
* and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips, * and my mouth shall show forth your
praise.
- 16 For you desire no sacrifice, or else I would give it to you; * but
you delight not in burnt-offerings.
- 17 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; * a broken and
contrite heart, O God, you shall not despise.

CONFESSION AND LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Deacon or other person appointed says

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Silence may follow. The Officiant and People together, all kneeling, pray

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, through 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. 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.

Reader Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

The Reader alone continues, and the People respond

For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience; for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy of our lives; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of those we think more fortunate than ourselves; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment; for all lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people, and our failure to give of ourselves in love; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

For our dishonesty in daily life and work, our ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure to heed your call. Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt of others, and for all uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

For our negligence in prayer and worship; for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of God; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

For our failure to commend the faith that is in us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

All then pray

Show favor to your people, **O** Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath you remember mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare us; in the multitude of your mercies, look upon us and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

The Bishop, if present, or the Priest, alone stands and says

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, desires not the death of sinners, but that they may turn from their wickedness and live. He has empowered and commanded his ministers to pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all who truly repent and genuinely believe his holy Gospel. For this reason, we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that our present deeds may please him, the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

The Deacon or other Minister says,

HEAR what comforting words our Saviour Christ says to all who truly turn to him: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Hear also what Saint Paul says: This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Hear also what Saint John says: If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the propitiation for our sins.

THE OFFERTORY

The gifts of bread and wine are presented at the altar.

THE THANKSGIVING

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is right and just so to do.**

Then the Priest says

THE PREFACE

Then all say

HOLY, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Priest says

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Then the Priest invites the People to say the Lord's Prayer:

And now as our Savior Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to pray:

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Priest may say a Sentence, then says the Peace:

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

All kneel and say the Prayer of Humble Access:

WE do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Then Agnus Dei is sung or said.

O LAMB of God, that takest away the sin of the world: **Have mercy upon us.** O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: **Have mercy upon us.** O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: **Grant us thy peace.**

Then the Priest administers

HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to approach the altar—believers and non-believers, and members of all denominations.

Holy Communion is about renewing our participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus which we initiate in baptism and continue by faith. We ask that, if you have not been baptized or if you do not believe in Christ, you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would prefer a blessing.

After Communion, the Priest says:

Let us pray.

Then all say:

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart: that desiring you, we may seek you; and that seeking you, we may find you; and that finding you, we may love you; and that loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have delivered us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest says the Blessing:

THE peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.