

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

February 17th, 2021

**Entrance Hymn**

*Merciful God* #478

**Refrain:** Sign us with ashes, merciful God,  
children of dust, as to dust we return.  
Sign us with ashes, merciful God.  
Mark us and make us your own.

Surely, you alone can save us.  
You pay our price with precious blood.  
Reaching through your great compassion.  
Your life us your people with love. [Refrain]

Surely, you alone uphold us.  
You give us strength for all our needs.  
Shielding with a father's favor.  
You bless us with pardon and peace. [Refrain]

Surely, you alone can heal us.  
Yours is the will to make us whole.  
Soothing with a mother's kindness.  
The contrite of heart you console. [Refrain]

Surely, you alone can free us.  
You break the bonds of guilt and sin.  
Bracing, till we walk up rightly.  
You bolster our hope once again. [Refrain]

**Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
We bless you,  
We adore you,  
We glorify you,  
We give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
You take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God, the Father.  
*Amen.*

**First Reading**      *Let your hearts be broken and not your garments torn.*

A reading from the Book of the prophet Joel    **JI 2:12-18**

Even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with your whole heart,  
with fasting, and weeping, and mourning;  
Rend your hearts, not your garments,  
and return to the LORD, your God.  
For gracious and merciful is he,  
slow to anger, rich in kindness,  
and relenting in punishment.  
Perhaps he will again relent  
and leave behind him a blessing,  
Offerings and libations  
for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion!  
proclaim a fast,  
call an assembly;  
Gather the people,  
notify the congregation;  
Assemble the elders,  
gather the children  
and the infants at the breast;  
Let the bridegroom quit his room  
and the bride her chamber.  
Between the porch and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep,

And say, “Spare, O LORD, your people,  
and make not your heritage a reproach,  
with the nations ruling over them!  
Why should they say among the peoples,  
‘Where is their God?’”

Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land  
and took pity on his people.  
The word of the Lord.

**Response:**     *Thanks be to God.*

**Responsorial Psalm**                     51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17

**Refrain:**         *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;  
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.  
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt  
and of my sin cleanse me. [Refrain]

For I acknowledge my offense,  
and my sin is before me always:  
“Against you only have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight.” [Refrain]

A clean heart create for me, O God,  
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.  
Cast me not out from your presence,  
and your Holy Spirit take not from me. [Refrain]

Give me back the joy of your salvation,  
and a willing spirit sustain in me.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. [Refrain]

**Second Reading**     *Be reconciled to God, now is the acceptable time.*

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul     2 Cor 5:20—6:2  
to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We are ambassadors for Christ,  
as if God were appealing through us.  
We implore you on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.

For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin,  
so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.  
Working together, then,  
we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.  
For he says:

*In an acceptable time, I heard you,  
and on the day of salvation I helped you.*

Behold, now is a very acceptable time;  
behold, now is the day of salvation.  
The word of the Lord.

**Response:**    ***Thanks be to God.***

**Gospel**        *Your Father, who sees all that is done in secret, will reward you.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew    **Mt 6:1-6, 16-18**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Take care not to perform righteous deeds  
in order that people may see them;  
otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father.

When you give alms,  
do not blow a trumpet before you,  
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets  
to win the praise of others.

Amen, I say to you,  
they have received their reward.

But when you give alms,  
do not let your left hand know what your right is doing,  
so that your almsgiving may be secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you pray,  
do not be like the hypocrites,  
who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners  
so that others may see them.

Amen, I say to you,  
they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go to your inner room,  
close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.  
And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you fast,  
do not look gloomy like the hypocrites.  
They neglect their appearance,

so that they may appear to others to be fasting.  
Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.  
But when you fast,  
anoint your head and wash your face,  
so that you may not appear to be fasting,  
except to your Father who is hidden.  
And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Response:** *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father.  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
*At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.

*Amen.*

### **Offertory Hymn**

*Hear Us, Almighty Lord #473*

**Refrain:** Hear us, almighty Lord, show us your mercy;  
sinners we stand here before you.

Jesus, our Saviour, Lord of all the nations,  
Christ our redeemer, hear the prayers we offer.  
Spare us and save us, comfort us in sorrow. **[Refrain]**

Word of the Father, keystone of God's building,  
source of our gladness, gateway to the Kingdom,  
free us in mercy from the sins that bind us. **[Refrain]**

God of compassion, Lord of might and splendor,  
graciously listen, hear our cries of anguish.  
Touch us and heal us where our sins have wounded. **[Refrain]**

Humbly confessing that we have offended,  
stripped of illusions, naked in our sorrow.  
Pardon, Lord Jesus, those your blood has ransomed. **[Refrain]**

Innocent captive, you were led to slaughter,  
sentenced by sinners when they brought false witness,  
keep from damnation those your death has rescued. **[Refrain]**

### **Communion Hymn**

*Bread of Life from Heaven #948*

**Refrain:** Bread of life from heaven,  
your blood and body given,  
we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
until you come again.

Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice.  
Giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round.  
Eat all of you and be satisfied,  
in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. **[Refrain]**

Seek not the food that will pass away,  
set your hearts on the food that endures.

Come, learn the true and the living way,  
that the fullness of life may be yours. [Refrain]

Love as the One who, in love for you,  
gave himself for the life of the world.  
Come to the One who is food for you,  
that your hunger and thirst be no more. [Refrain]

Take in the light that will never dim.  
Taste the life that is stronger than death.  
Live in the One who will come and then  
raise you up at the last with the blest. [Refrain]

### **Closing Hymn**

*Again, We Keep This Solemn Fast #474*

Again, we keep this solemn fast.  
A gift of faith from ages past.  
These forty days that year by year  
bid contrite hearts to Christ draw near.

The law and prophets from of old  
in figured ways this Lent foretold,  
which Christ, all ages' Lord and Guide,  
in these last days has sanctified.

More sparing, therefore, let us make  
the words we speak, the food we take.  
Our sleep, our laughter, ev'ry sense;  
learn peace through holy penitence.

Let us avoid each harmful way  
that lures the careless mind astray;  
by watchful prayer our spirits free  
from scheming of the Enemy.

We pray, O blessed Three in One,  
our God while endless ages run.  
That this, our Lent of forty days,  
may bring us growth and give you praise.

*Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord and One Another!*