

March 5,
2025



ASH WEDNESDAY

THE

IMPOSITION OF ASHES WITH HOLY COMMUNION

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
PARISH OF LANCASTER
Diocese of Fredericton - Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop

Interim Priest-in-charge

Church Wardens

Parish Administrator

Organist & Choir Director

Sexton

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We acknowledge that the land on which
we gather is the traditional unceded
territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet)
and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

7:00 pm

The

Imposition of Ashes with Holy Communion

The liturgy is according to *The Book of Alternative Services (adapted)*.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

In **Silence** *worship begins.*

All stand as the clergy, other ministers and the choir enter and take their places.

The presider then says the following.

Scripture Sentence

God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world. John 3:16-17 [GW]

Hymn “Father of Heaven, Whose Love Profound” CP 616

- 1 Father of heaven, whose love profound
a ransom for our souls hath found,
before thy throne we sinners bend;
to us thy pardoning love extend.
- 2 Almighty Son, Incarnate Word,
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,
before thy throne we sinners bend;
to us thy saving grace extend.
- 3 Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
the soul is raised from sin and death,
Before thy throne we sinners bend;
to us thy quickening power extend.
- 4 Jehovah - Father, Spirit, Son -
mysterious Godhead, Three in One,
before thy throne we sinners bend;
grace, pardon, life to us extend.

Text Edward Cooper (1770-1833)
Tune RIVAULX, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

The Greeting

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all.

And also with you.

In these or other suitable words, the presider explains the meaning of Lent and invites the people to observe it faithfully.

Introduction

Sisters and brothers in Christ: since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for Baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had been separated through sin. In course of time the Church came to recognize that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

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.

Lord, have mercy (*"Kyrie Eleison"*)

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you despise 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 brokenness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED.

First Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from Joel.

¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—
² a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.
¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.
¹⁴ 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?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.
¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, 'Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
"Where is their God?"' [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-18

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.
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.
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.
¹⁵ **Our days are like the grass; ***
we flourish like a flower of the field;
¹⁶ When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
and its place shall know it no more.

¹⁷ But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, *

and his righteousness on children's children;

¹⁸ On those who keep his covenant *

and remember his commandments and do them.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

A reading from Second Corinthians.

^{20b} We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1} As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² 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!

³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

[NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn “*The Glory of These Forty Days*” **CP170**

1 The glory of these forty days
 we celebrate with songs of praise;
 for Christ, by whom all things were made,
 himself has fasted and has prayed.

- 2 Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.
- 3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the bridegroom's friend, became
the herald of Messiah's name.
- 4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be
full oft in fast and prayer with thee;
our spirits strengthen with thy grace,
and give us joy to see thy face.
- 5 O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
to thee be every prayer addressed,
who art in threefold name adored,
from age to age, the only Lord.

Text Latin (6th cent) tr. Maruice F. Bell (1862-1947)
Tune ERHALT UNS, HERR, adapt. & harm. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
The Lord is a great God;
Oh, that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

Psalm 95:3, 8

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² '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. ³ But when you give alms, do not let

your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ ‘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. ⁶ 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.

¹⁶ ‘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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. [NRSV-A]

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Message Fr Keith Joyce

Preparing for the Sign of Ashes

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.

As we prepare to receive this sign, I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent. Let us kneel or sit before our Creator and Redeemer.

We now together say the following Psalm.

Psalm 51:1-18

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving
 kindness; *
 in your great compassion blot out my offences.
 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 judgement.
 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.

Hymn of Reflection *“Have Mercy, Lord, On Us”* CP 605

- 1 Have mercy, Lord, on us,
for you are ever kind;
though we have sinned before you, Lord,
your mercy let us find.
- 2 Lord, wash away our guilt,
and cleanse us from our sin;
for we confess our wrongs, and see
how great our guilt has been.
- 3 The joy your grace can give,
let us again obtain;
and may your Spirit's firm support
our spirits then sustain.

*Text para. Nahum Tate (1652-1715), Nicholas Brady (1659-1726)
Tune ST BRIDE, Samuel Howard, 1710-1782*

The Liturgy of Penitence

The presider, or another, continues, first saying,

Let us now call to mind our sin
and the infinite mercy of God,
as we kneel or sit to pray.

God the Father,
have mercy on us.

God the Son,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice;
and from all evil intent,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money;
from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;
in the hour of death,
and at the day of judgement,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood, and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial;
by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
Good Lord, deliver us.

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

SILENCE is kept for a time, after which the presider says,

Make our hearts clean, O God;
and renew a right spirit within us.

Then all together we say,

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our
neighbour,**

**in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Before the ashes are imposed, the presider says the following,

As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter, I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross, the symbol of our salvation. As we prepare to receive this sign, let us pray.

God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
grant that these ashes may be for us
a sign of our penitence
and a symbol of our mortality;

for it is by your grace alone
that we receive eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

The presider first marks himself with the ashes, followed by those assisting him. Then those who desire to receive ashes please proceed to the Altar Rail, where you may kneel or stand, and the ashes will be applied to the forehead of each person with these words:

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

After all who desire ashes have received them and have returned to their seats, the presider leads the congregation in the conclusion of the Liturgy of Penitence.

Let us pray, kneeling or seated.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,
**Bring us with all your saints
to the joy of his resurrection.**

Then the presider says,

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

ALL PLEASE STAND, AS YOU'RE ABLE.

The Peace

The presider continues,

Being justified by grace,
through faith we have peace with God

in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

All may express a gesture of Christ's peace towards one another.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Preparation of the Gifts

The Table is prepared, and the Offering is given and brought to the Table during the following music.

Offertory Hymn "Before I take the body of my Lord" CP 610

- 1 Before I take the body of my Lord,
before I share His life in bread and wine,
I recognise the sorry things within:
these I lay down.
- 2 The words of hope I often failed to give,
the prayers of kindness buried by my pride,
the signs of care I argued out of sight:
these I lay down.
- 3 The narrowness of vision and of mind,
the need for other folk to serve my will,
and every word and silence meant to hurt:
these I lay down.
- 4 Of those around in whom I meet my Lord,
I ask their pardon and I grant them mine
that every contradiction of Christ's peace
might be laid down
- 5 Lord Jesus Christ, companion at this feast,
I empty now my heart and stretch my hands
and ask to meet you here in bread and wine
which you lay down.

Text John Bell (1949-) & Graham Maule (1956-)
Music LAYING DOWN, John Bell (1949-)

The Prayer over the Gifts

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

As we remain standing, let us pray.

Merciful Father,
turn us from sin to faithfulness
and from disobedience to love,
and prepare us to celebrate
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour
who is alive and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

WHILE ALL STILL STANDING, the presider continues directly with the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
The Spirit of God is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, thanks and praise
be given to you at all times and in all places,
Lord, holy Father, true and living God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For he is your eternal Word
through whom you have created all things
from the beginning
and formed us in your own image.

In your great love you gave him
to be made man for us and to share our common life.
He was tempted in every way as we are,
yet he did not sin;
and he gives us strength to control our desires,

and to walk in his way of love.
In obedience to your will
your Son our Saviour offered himself as a perfect sacrifice,
and died on the cross for our redemption.
Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin
and reconciled us to yourself, our God and Father.

He is our great high priest
whom you raised from death
and exalted to your right hand on high
where he ever lives to intercede for us.
Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit
and made us a royal priesthood
called to serve you for ever.

Therefore with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PLEASE KNEEL OR BE SEATED

Merciful Father, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,
and we pray that we who eat and drink them
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
in obedience to our Saviour Christ
in remembrance of his death and passion
may be partakers of his body and his blood,
who on the night he was betrayed took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you;
Do this in remembrance of me.
After supper, he took the cup,

and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
Drink from 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.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Father, with this bread and this cup,
we do as our Saviour has commanded:
we celebrate the redemption he has won for us;
we proclaim his perfect sacrifice,
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
and we look for his coming again
to fulfil all things according to your will.

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us 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.**

Silence is held for a time

The Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup
**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

The Communion

The presider invites the people to share in communion and says,

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God

**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.**

Communion Music

Instrumental – *keyboard*

At the conclusion of the communion, silence may be kept.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

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

The following prayer is said together, the presider first saying,

Holy Father,
God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
during these renewing days of Lent,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Closing Responsory

This is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son.
He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.
If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another.
If we love one another
God lives in us.

In place of the Blessing the presider then says,

The Solemn Prayer over the People for Ash Wednesday

Grant, most merciful Lord,
to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,

and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in the peace of God's mercy and grace.
Thanks be to God.

The service ends in silence as first the clergy, other ministers, and choir depart.

Those serving today's worship and learning:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Carol Patterson, Patti Vaughan
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Terry Ricketts
<i>Layreader & First Reader</i>	Brenda Clayton
<i>Second Reader</i>	Heather Masson
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Layreader
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Presider & preacher</i>	Keith Joyce
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Terry Ricketts

