



Holy Eucharist
ORDER OF WORSHIP
ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 17, 2021

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If you prefer to watch the service *at a LATER TIME OR DATE*,
we will be providing the recording through
the [church website](#).

Dear St. Stephen's,

Thank you for joining us for the Holy Eucharist Service on
Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

You may notice some differences in our service. This is due
to our adjusting for the inclement weather and with the
safety of those ordinarily with us at the service's
production in mind.



If you are already a St. Stephen's YouTube subscriber and/or Facebook
follower, you will receive an alert on Wednesday with the links. For others, you
may watch the service at any time Wednesday by clicking the links at the top
of this order of worship or visiting the church website, ststeve.org and clicking
the blue *Ash Wednesday Worship* button.

May God bless you this day and always,

Fr. Kevin

COLLECT FOR THE DAY (BCP pg. 264)

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 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

First Reading (Joel 2:1-2 12-17)

Reader: Elisa Webster

Lector: A Reading from the Book of Joel

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--
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.

Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
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.
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?

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 infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

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?'"

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

THE SECOND READING (2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10)

Reader: Elisa Webster

Lector: A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see - we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

"Today We Enter the Season that Begins with a Smudge"



Celebrant:

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; meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us know kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept

Celebrant:

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. *Amen.*

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

PSALM 51

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
 - 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.
 - 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
 - 4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.
 - 5 And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.
 - 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.
 - 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
 - 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
 - 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.
 - 10 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.
 - 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
 - 12 Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.
 - 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
 - 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.
 - 15 Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, of God of my salvation.
 - 16 Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
 - 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; but you take no delight in burnt offerings.
 - 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
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LITANTY OF PENTINENCE

Celebrant: Please kneel as you are able.

Celebrant: 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 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.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Celebrant: 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.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

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

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrong we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Celebrant: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Celebrant: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
People: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

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

Celebrant: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we don on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes for church families will be available with a drive through on February 17 during the lunch hour (12 noon until 1 p.m.) and after work (5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.). Fr. Kevin will be outside with a Q-tip to administer the imposition of ashes as you drive up and stay seated in your vehicle.
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THE HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

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

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

Celebrant It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you,

and glorify your Name, as we say,

Sanctus

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.

Celebrant We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People: We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Celebrant: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy you Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of

salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Stephen and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

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

Celebrant and 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

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP pg. 365)

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant 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 and Blood. 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.

THE BLESSING (BCP pg. 339)

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be

among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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