

St Aidan's Episcopal Church
Ash Wednesday Liturgy
February 17, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

At home before the service: If you have not picked up ashes from the church, and you wish to receive ashes (optional), please gather your own ashes and place them in a small dish or bowl. Ashes may be from your own fireplace or fire pit, or from the burning of paper or leaves. If you have palm branches or palm crosses from previous years, these are particularly appropriate to burn. Very little ash is needed. Some choose to mix a drop of oil with the ashes, but this is not necessary. Determine which household member will place the ashes on the foreheads of others, or whether you will take turns. Those who live alone will impose ashes, if desired, on themselves.

Please enter the Zoom session in silence. In your homes, you are invited to light a candle as we enter into the our worship and begin the season of Lent.

Welcome and announcements

Opening Hymn 149 Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church

Eternal Lord, of love behold your church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire.
moved by your love and toward your presence bent.
far off yet here, the goal of all desire.

So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living in your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God.

If dead in you, so in you, we arise.
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead.
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flower.
so in the Father's glory shall we wake.

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever.

Collect

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 may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness and renewal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lies and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading**Isaiah 58:5b-12**

Thus says the Lord:

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-14

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy*

slow to anger and of great kindness.

You will not always accuse us, *

nor will you keep your anger for ever.

You have not dealt with us according to our sins, *

nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, *

so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.

As far as the east is from the west, *

so far have you removed our sins from us.

As a parent cares for a child, *

so do you care for those who fear you.

For you yourself know whereof we are made; *

you remember that we are but dust.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke (9:18-27)

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am? Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

Reflection: The Rev. Dr. Rosemary Beales

Invitation to Holy Lent

BCP 264-265

Silence

Video of the burning of last year’s palms

Prayer Over the Ashes

BCP 265

The Officiant will pause. The designated member of the household will stand before other members, dip a thumb into the ashes, then trace the sign of the cross on the forehead of each family member with that thumb, while saying the words, “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.” Those who are alone in their household impose ashes on their own foreheads, saying the same words. After each person in the household has received the ashes, the service continues.

Litany of Penitence

God of mercy and compassion, we confess to you the hardness of our hearts and the failings of our community.

We turn away from your mercy and mistreat each other.

Forgive us and heal us.

We deny your faith and distrust one another.

Forgive us and heal us.

We reject your love and ignore those who seek our help.

Forgive us and heal us.

We disobey your call to give and cling to our possessions.

Forgive us and heal us.

We misuse your gifts to us and abuse your creation.

Forgive us and heal us.

We turn away strangers and live selfishly.

Forgive us and heal us.

We are afraid to be changed and envy others' gifts.

Forgive us and heal us.

Lord Jesus, you welcome yourself into our lives when we are least prepared to receive you. As you embrace your betrayers, so embrace us who sometimes struggle to live as your people in the world. Restore us to our right minds and give us your peace. Turn us to following the way of your life. Create in us clean hearts and for the sake of your love forgive us all our sins. We ask it for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The Peace

Resolving to live in peace with God, one another, and all of creation, let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us:

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.

Blessing

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.

Closing Hymn I have decided to follow Jesus 136 LEVAS

1 I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back!

2 Though no one join me, still I will follow,
Though no one join me, still I will follow,
Though no one join me, still I will follow,
No turning back, no turning back!

3 The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
No turning back, no turning back!

Dismissal –

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God