



St. John's Episcopal Church

Hear the Spirit ~ See God's Beauty ~ Act in Love

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude *Pari Intervallo*

Arvo Pärt (b.1935)

THE WORD OF GOD

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

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

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?'"

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:8-14



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.

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

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.

Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #697 *My God, accept my heart this day*

*Verses 1-3 will be sung before the reading of the Gospel.
Verses 4 will be sung after the reading.*

SONG 67

The Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Presider
People

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
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."

Following the Gospel

Presider
People

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rector

After the Sermon, all stand, and the Presider or Minister appointed invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, 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. 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; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

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

The ashes are imposed with the following words

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

Psalm 51 *Miserere mei, Deus*

Tone IV.1



- 1 *Have mërcy on me, O God, according to your / loving-kiñdness; **
in your great compassion / blot out my offënses.
- 2 *Wash me through and through / from my wickedness **
and / cleanse me fröm my sin.
- 3 *For I know / my transgrëssions, **
and my sin is / ever bëföre me.
- 4 *Against you only / have I sinned **
and done what is / evil in yöur sight.
- 5 *And so you are justified / when you spéak **
and up/right in yöur jüdgment.
- 6 *Indeed, I have been wicked / from my birth, **
a sinner / from my möthér's womb.
- 7 *For behold, you look for truth / deep within' me, **
and will make me understand / wisdom sëcrëtly.
- 8 *Purge me from my sin, / and I shall be pure; **
wash me, and I / shall be clëan ínindeed.

9 Make me hear of / joy and gl  dness, *
 that the body you have / broken m  y r  joice.

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,
 O / God of my salvation.

16 O/pen 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.

Litany of Penitence

The Presider and People together, all kneeling

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.**

The Presider continues

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us 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.

The Priest, stands and, facing the people, says

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 do 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.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn 147 *Now let us all with one accord*

BOURBON

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The first staff shows the Celebrant's part: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff shows the People's part: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff shows the People's part: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise."

The Presider continues, concluding with:

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus S-124

The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est."

The Presider continues to give thanks, and invites all to join in

The Memorial Acclamation

Presider Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues praying, concluding with

Presider All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

**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 *The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.*

Agnus Dei S-161

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion Anthem *Purge me, O Lord*

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

All who seek to receive Christ in the sacrament of this meal are welcome to partake of the bread and wine. Please come to the altar up the center aisle and return to your pew down the side aisles. You are welcome to receive both the bread and the wine, bread only, or a blessing. To receive the bread, stand or kneel at the altar rail and the priest will place the host in your hands. The wine is available either from the common cup, or in individually pre-packaged containers on small tables at either end of the altar rail. To receive the wine from the pre-packaged cup, open the foil seal at the top of the container, drink the wine, and place the empty cup into the basket.

The Postcommunion Prayer *Please stand as able.*

Presider Let us pray.

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 Prayer over the People *please kneel as you are able*

Closing Hymn #143 *The glory of these forty days*

ERHALT UNS, HERR

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Erbarm dich mein, O Herre Gott*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Ministers Serving This Evening:

The Rev. Greg Johnston, Officiant
Douglas Witte, Organist and Choir Director
Jane Struss and Catherine Womack, Readers
Catherine Womack, Usher
August Holbrook-Smith, Chalice
Catherine Womack, Altar Guild

Calendar for the Weeks Ahead at St. John's

Sunday, February 22

10am ~ The Great Litany with Holy Eucharist for the First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 1

10am ~ Holy Eucharist for the Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 8

10am ~ Holy Eucharist for the Third Sunday in Lent

Daylight Savings Time begins

Friday, March 13

7pm ~ Evensong

Sunday, March 15

10am ~ Holy Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Garden Group Shamrock and Bake Sale!

Sunday, March 22

10am ~ Holy Eucharist for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 29

10am ~ Holy Eucharist for the Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 2

6pm ~ Agape Supper for Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3

7pm ~ Holy Eucharist for Good Friday

Saturday, April 4

12pm ~ Holy Saturday Prayers 7pm ~ Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 5

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday

10am ~ Holy Eucharist

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Gregory Johnston, Rector

Mr. Douglas Witte, Organist and Choirmaster

Nancy Savage, Godly Play Teacher

Ms. Priscilla Burns, Parish Administrator

Mr. Brian O'Neill, Sexton

Mr. Matthew Hast and Ms. Shannon Fry, Wardens