



Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021
12noon and 7:30pm

Zoom Best Practices

To make the service run more smoothly and to cut down on distortion and dissonance caused by the response of multiple voices, please leave your computer mic or phone on mute at all times with the exception of the Lord's Prayer, the Psalm, the Peace, and the Litany of Penitence. We will assign and / or ask for volunteers to represent the congregation as one voice for the remainder of the responsorial portions of the service. However, while muted, please do say the words that are written for your response. Even in the muted state, this remains an interactive service.

Everyone reads aloud the words printed in bold.

The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Mystery of Goodness, by whose gaze we are called into being and held in life: teach us the secrecy of prayer which seeks no reward, the generosity of love which forgets itself, the gift of treasure uncountable and unconsumed; through Jesus Christ, the Son of the Wilderness.
Amen.

All pray together

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.

LENTEN DISCIPLINE from *HOME BY ANOTHER WAY*
by Barbara Brown Taylor

THE EXHORTATION

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.

CONTEMPLATION OF A HOLY LENT

In some ways, it feels as though we have been in an extended season of Lent since early last winter. Since then, we've been steeped in grief, lament, death, isolation, and division. We've faced our mortality and our complicity, over and over again. After enduring all this, how do we approach Lent this year?

The Good News is this: God continues to invite us into relationship, calling us Beloved children of God! Worship, prayer, and spiritual

practices during this season of Lent, and throughout the church year, are most importantly an opportunity to seek the presence and the peace of God and remember our place in the community of creation. Our rootedness in the love of God is what helps us to stand resilient in the winds of fear and anger and to bear fruits of the spirit - love, joy, hope, patience, and self-control.

Traditionally, we think of Lent as a Fast – what will we give up? Here are some other ways to approach Lent:

- Feast – what will we savor?
- Pilgrimage – what is our holy destination? what will God reveal along the way?
- Wilderness Adventure – what are the mountains and valleys? how might we find water, build fires, spend time outdoors?
- Retreat – how will we experience silence and reflection?
- Lament – what is the grief we need to express? what is on our “wailing wall”?
- Honeymoon – how can we fall in love with Jesus again?
- Sabbath – how will we rest?

Take a few moments and reflect on which of these speaks to you. How will you mark a Holy Lent this year?

SILENCE

PSALM 51 (*said by all, in unison*)

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, O 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.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

All pray together

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 Celebrant 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 ABSOLUTION

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

BLESSING

Grant, most merciful Savior, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

