



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

Ash Wednesday
St. Augustine's Church, Lethbridge
February 17, 2021

Greeting

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The community kneels and prays in silence; then follows the Collect of the Day.

People **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 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 Proclamation of the Word

(all seated)

First Reading: Isaiah 58: 1-12

Br. Jason Carroll

“Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet.
Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’

“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves?
Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Psalm 103:8-18

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

**He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

He has 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 his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.

**As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

**Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field;**

When the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

**But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him,
and his righteousness on children's children;**

On those who keep his covenant
and remember his commandments and do them.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

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

The Rev. Steve Bateman

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

Br. Jason Carroll

All stand for the Gospel.

Reader The Lord be with you.

Reader And also with you.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says, The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Gillian Breckenridge

After the sermon all stand, and the celebrant or minister addresses the congregation, saying,

Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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. I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God. Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

Silence is then kept for reflection.

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.

Litany of Penitence

The celebrant and people say together,

Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you, 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 neighbours 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 judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours 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;
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward, and the ashes are applied to the forehead of each person with the following words.

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

After all who desire ashes have received them, the celebrant leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession, all kneeling.

Celebrant Accomplish in us, O God, 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.

The priest stands and facing the people, says,

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The Peace

All stand, and one of the ministers addresses the people:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Preparation and Prayer over the Gifts

Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offering, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer 3. *(please remain standing)*

The Rev Steve Bateman

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that reborn through the waters of baptism and renewed in the Eucharistic mystery, we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love. Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

All **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 give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

All Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*all kneeling*)

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant We break this bread,
All **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Celebrant Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.
All **If we have died with him, we shall live with him;**
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the people of God

All: **Thanks Be to God**

Celebrant: The body and blood of Christ given for you.

All: **Amen.**

The Communion

Celebrant Please join me in an act of Spiritual Eucharist

Gracious God, I repent of my sins, and steadfastly believe that Jesus Christ has suffered death upon the cross for me, and that he shed his blood for my redemption. I earnestly remember the benefits I have because of his death and give him my heartfelt thanks. I eat and drink the body and blood of our Saviour Christ profitably to my soul's health, although I do not receive the sacrament with my mouth.

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer pp 584

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray. (*All kneeling*)

All **God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(All stand)

The Blessing

Dismissal