

# **Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes**

Ash Wednesday

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The territory where the Church of the Nativity resides has long been tended by many Indigenous peoples including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee. With them, we are members of the Dish with One Spoon wampum, and we will strive to live up to our responsibility as treaty members and respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the nations of this place and the heritage and gifts of Métis people.

**May our actions be guided by our commitment to reconciliation.**

## **Gathering**

Silence

*Silence is kept.*

*A bell is rung, and the service begins.*

Welcome

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

## **Unfolding the Scriptures**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

A reading from the prophet 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?”’

*Joel 2.1—2, 12—17*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great kindness;  
in the fullness of your mercy, blot out my offences.

**Wash away all my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is always before me.

**Against you only have I sinned, and done evil in your sight.**

So that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless in your judging.

**Evil have I been from my birth,  
a sinner I am from the time of my conception.**

But you desire truth in our inward being:

**therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Take hyssop, sprinkle me with water and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness,  
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.**

Turn away your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my misdeeds.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence;  
do not take your holy Spirit from me.

**Give me the joy of your help again,  
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners will turn to you again.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God my saviour,  
and my tongue shall sing of your deliverance.**

O Lord, open my lips,  
**and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

You desire no sacrifice, or I would give it,  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

A reading from the second letter to the followers of Jesus in Corinth.

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, labours, 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 honour and dishonour, 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.

*2 Corinthians 5.20b—6.10*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, ‘Beware of practising 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.

*Matthew 6. 1—6, 16—21*

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Invitation to Lent

Friends in Christ,  
today with the whole church  
we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life,  
and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season  
by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy.  
We are created to experience joy in communion with God,  
to love one another,  
and to live in harmony with creation.

But our sinful rebellion  
separates us from God, our neighbours, and creation,  
so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus,  
we are called to a discipline that contends against evil  
and resists whatever leads us away from the love of God and neighbour.

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 continue our journey through these forty days  
to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## Liturgy of Penitence and Imposition of Ashes

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,

**we confess to you and to one another,  
and before the whole company of heaven,  
that we have sinned**

**by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous 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, O God.**

We have shut our ears 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, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy  
that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,

and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship,

and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering,

and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**



Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours,  
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

*Blessing the ashes*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence,  
reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ  
are we given eternal life;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The presider and people receive the imposition of ashes.*

*At the imposition, the presider says to each person*

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

**Amen.**

*Following the imposition:*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the life, cross, and passion of your Son, our Saviour,  
**bring us with all your saints**  
**to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

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

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you!  
**And also with you.**

## **Feasting at the Table**

Prayer over the Gifts

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.  
Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.  
Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.  
We pray this in your name.  
**Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people

through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus teaches us in the language and version of our comfort:

### **Our Father**

<b>in heaven</b>	<b>who art in heaven,</b>
<b>hallowed be your name,</b>	<b>hallowed be thy name,</b>
<b>your kingdom come,</b>	<b>thy kingdom come,</b>
<b>your will be done,</b>	<b>thy will be done,</b>
<b>on earth as in heaven.</b>	<b>on earth as it is in heaven.</b>
<b>Give us today</b>	<b>Give us this day</b>
<b>our daily bread.</b>	<b>our daily bread.</b>
<b>Forgive us our sins</b>	<b>And forgive us our trespasses,</b>
<b>as we forgive those</b>	<b>as we forgive those</b>
<b>who sin against us.</b>	<b>who trespass against us.</b>
<b>Save us from the time of trial,</b>	<b>And lead us not into temptation,</b>
<b>and deliver us from evil.</b>	<b>but deliver us from evil.</b>
<b>For the kingdom,</b>	<b>For thine is the kingdom,</b>
<b>the power, and the glory</b>	<b>the power and the glory,</b>
<b>are yours, now and for ever.</b>	<b>for ever and ever.</b>
<b>Amen.</b>	<b>Amen.</b>

*We keep silent and pray for a short time.*

## The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread,

**Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

**If we have died with Christ, we shall live with Christ;**

**if we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.**

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**Thanks be to God.**

Communion

## Prayer after Communion

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
    now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
    in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.  
**Amen.**

## Solemn Prayer over the People

Let us bow down before the Lord.  
  
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.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Share your bread.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Silent Recessional