

Saint Christopher Episcopal Church  
Fairborn, Ohio  
The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio



**March 1, 2017**

**The Imposition of Ashes  
and  
Celebration of Holy Communion, Rite II  
Six Thirty o'clock in the evening**

## Enter to Know Christ – Leave to Make Him Known

~ *Hail Guest! We ask not what thou art; If Friend, we greet thee, hand and heart;  
If Stranger, such no longer be; If Foe, our love shall conquer thee!* ~

### The Liturgy of the Word

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People* **His mercy endures for ever.**

#### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* 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

*The book of Joel belongs to a collection of OT writings known as the Book of the Twelve. The book of Joel can be divided into two major sections: the first concerns a devastating plague of locusts, and the second concerns the Day of the Lord. Today's reading comes from the first section.*

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

#### The Psalm: 103 *Benedic, anima mea*

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 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.
- 15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, \*  
and his righteousness on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his covenant \*  
and remember his commandments and do them.
- 19 The Lord has set his throne in heaven, \*  
and his kingship has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, \*  
and hearken to the voice of his word.
- 21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, \*  
you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; \*  
bless the Lord, O my soul.

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

*In today's reading, Paul recounts the hardships that "we," Paul and Timothy, have endured as ministers of the gospel, as "ambassadors of Christ" (5:20a) who have been entrusted with "the message of reconciliation" (5:19).*

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

*All as are able stand.*

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

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

**The Holy Gospel ..... Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus states that "unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 5:20, Epi 5). In today's reading, Jesus gives us some insight into what he means by the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, and how we can surpass it.*

*Celebrant*       The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**An Invitation to a Holy Lent**

*All as are able stand.*

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.

*All as are able kneel.*

**The Blessing and Imposition of Ashes**

*The Celebrant then says*

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.**

*Those people desiring may then come and kneel before the altar rail to receive the imposition of ashes.*

*The ashes are imposed with the following words*

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

**The Psalm: 51** *Miserere mei, Deus*

*All as are able remain kneeling.*

*(recited 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.**
- 19 **Be favorable and gracious to Zion, \*  
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.**
- 20 **Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt-offerings and oblations; \*  
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*All as are able – standing.*

Our compassionate and yet all-powerful God has called us to repentance. May our prayers and our fasting assist us in coming before God with pure hearts and minds. Today is the acceptable time; let us pray, saying: Lord, have mercy.

For all Christians, that embracing their Lenten discipline with joy, the cross of Christ may be their banner and the pledge of resurrection their hope, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those preparing for baptism, that their observance of the Lenten season strengthen their resolve to receive God's gift of new life, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our young people, that they find Lent a time of profound renewal and Easter a season of unsurpassing joy, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all churches, that Lent be a time of repentance for sins against unity of the body of Christ, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our parish concerns, that we remember the needs of others as we purify our own hearts and minds, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**

For this assembly, that as we celebrate our union with Christ in this holy meal we may not grow weary of proclaiming his saving death and resurrection to the whole world, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who suffer from illness, especially the elderly, that they may receive the consolation of knowing the love of their crucified Savior, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

*(in unison)*

**O God, as you called the Israelites to repent of their sins, so now you call us to fasting and prayer, in repentance for wandering from you. Never let us lose our way, and guide us during our Lenten journey that we arrive at the Easter Vigil, ready once more to celebrate our passage with Christ from death to life, from despair to hope, trusting in the life of Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Litany of Penitence**

*The Celebrant and People together,*

*All as are able remain 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 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 Celebrant stands and 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**

*All as are able stand.*

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## **The Liturgy of the Table**



*The Celebrant says*

We are encouraged in the Gospel of Matthew to give alms, our offerings to God, quietly, without ostentation and without calculation. God, who sees and knows our motivations and actions, is able to reward our faithfulness.

## **The Doxology**

*Celebrant* All things come of you, O God,

*People* **And of your own do we return to you.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*All as are able – remain standing.*

### **The Sursum Corda**

*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 him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant proceeds*

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe and for that we give you glory.

You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do.

In Jesus your Son, you bring healing to our world, and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name as we say:

## **The Sanctus**

*(in unison)*

**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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected.

Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross, he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead, you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body which is given for you."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and share in the life of the family of your children.

Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom.

We proclaim your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit now and forever. **Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, *(in unison)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

**Fraction Anthem**

*Celebrant* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.  
*People* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**  
*Celebrant* God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.  
*People* **Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**  
*Celebrant* This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.  
*People* **Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.**

## The Administration of Communion

*The Celebrant says*

Come to this table.

You that have much faith, and you that would like to have more;

You that have been here often, and you that have not been for a long time;

You that follow Jesus and you that failed.

COME! It is Christ who invites us to meet Him here.

*~ All are welcome to the Lord's Table: open to all who come, so all may be fed. ~*

**The Communion Hymns:** # 142 ..... "Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days"

# 149 ..... "Eternal Lord of Love"

## The Post Communion Prayer

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Blessing

*The Celebrant says*

The blessing of God, who hears when you call;  
the grace of Christ, who reconciles you;  
the power of the Holy Spirit, who sustains you  
remain with you in these Lenten days  
and for all your days, and forevermore. **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant:*

Practice your piety not before others,  
but before God.

Matt. 6:1-2, 5-6,  
16-17, 19-21

Give generously, but quietly;  
pray constantly, but confidentially;  
fast with gratitude to God;  
and store up that which is in your heart;  
for it cannot be taken from you.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**



# Lent begins