

**The Holy Thanksgiving of the People of God
The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday
with the Imposition of Ashes
Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
Lebanon, Indiana 46052**

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As the Altar party enters in silence, all rise as they are able.

The 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.

The People: *Amen.*

The people sit. The readings are on the insert in the bulletin.

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: *Thanks be to God.*

Our Psalm prayer for this day in response to the reading: Psalm 103 *See insert*

A Reading from the Christian New Testament

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: *Thanks be to God.*

**A Reading from One of the Gospels
of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

*Then, all standing, as the Deacon or Priest reads the Gospel, first saying:
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.
The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The Gospel Reading

*After the Gospel, the Reader says
The Gospel of the Lord.
The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

*After the Sermon, all stand as they are able, and the Presider 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.

If ashes are to be imposed, the Celebrant says the following prayer.
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:

You are dust, and to dust you shall return.

The following Psalm is then said by all kneeling, as they are able.

Psalm 51 Miserere mei, Deus

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

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling as they are able.
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 Presider 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 God's people, being penitent, the
absolution and remission of their sins. God pardons and
absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere
hearts believe God's holy Gospel.

Therefore we beg God to grant us true repentance and
the Holy Spirit, that those things may
please God 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 God's eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

All rise as they are able.

Our Sharing the Peace of Jesus Christ

The Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The People respond: *And also with you.*

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord making peace with one another before bringing their gifts to the altar.

Our Announcements gather the life, concerns, and events of this community into our worship.

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Our Liturgy of the Holy Communion

The Offering of Our Lives and of Our Gifts back to God

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings to the deacon or Presider of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, as we offer our lives back to God in faith and in faithful life and work.

The people stand while the offerings are gathered and placed on the Altar and sing:

The Offering Hymn *See insert for hymn number*

Our Great Thanksgiving Prayer to God

The people remain standing. The Presider, whether bishop or priest, faces them and says:

 The Lord be with you.

The People: *And also with you.*

The Presider: Lift up your hearts.

The People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

The Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

The Presider: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe,
you are worthy of glory and praise.

The People: *Glory to you for ever and ever.*

The Presider: At your command all things came to be:
the vast expanse of interstellar space,
galaxies, suns, the planets in their
courses, and this fragile earth, our island
home.

The People: *By your will they were created and have
their being.*

The Presider: From the primal elements you brought
forth the human race, and blessed us with
memory, reason, and skill. You made us
the rulers of creation. But we turned
against you, and betrayed your trust; and
we turned against one another.

The People: *Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in
your sight.*

The Presider: Again and again, you called us to return.
Through prophets and sages you revealed
your righteous Law. And in the fullness
of time you sent your only Son, born of a
woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for
us the way of freedom and peace.

The People: *By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.*

The Presider: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All say:

The "Holy, Holy, Holy" from Isaiah 6:3

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 people kneel as they are able as the Presider continues:

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering
to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*All: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we
await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Miriam, Ruth, Tamar,
and Rahab, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see
your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us
from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace
only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for
renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us
one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily
serve the world in his name.

*All: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the
Bread.*

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus
Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the
Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and
worship, from generation to generation.

AMEN.

The Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us we
now pray,

All say:

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as ~~is~~ 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 forever. Amen*

The Breaking of the Bread



The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then the Fraction Anthem is prayed.

The Presider: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world,

The People: *Have mercy upon us.*

The Presider: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world,

The People: *Have mercy upon us.*

The Presider: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world,

The People: *Grant us your peace.*

The Presider says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All are invited to come to our Lord's table for a blessing. All
baptized Christians are welcome to receive the blessing of
communion. Others may come forward for a blessing from the
priest indicating this by crossing their arms over their chest.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these
words*

The People: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Amen.

The People: The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.
Amen.

Our Communion Hymn of Thanksgiving to God
See insert for hymn number

Our Final Lenten Prayer of Thanksgiving to God

The Presider: Let us pray.

The Presider and People pray together:

Almighty and everliving God, you bid your faithful people cleanse our hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your word and Sacraments, we may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. And so Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Presider may bless the people.

The Blessing for Ash Wednesday

The Presider: 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.

The People: *Amen.*

The altar party leaves in silence followed by the people who also leave in silence.

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