

# The Light of Christ

## ANGLICAN CHURCH

*Connecting the Gospel of the Kingdom to Ordinary Lives*

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**Ash Wednesday**  
February 22, 2023 - 7:00 pm

*Please be seated in silence.*

*Process in silence*

### **Collect**

Celebrant: Blessed be the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
People: **Whose mercy endures for ever.**

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

As far as the east is from the west, so far has God set our sins from us.  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

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 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 Word**

**A Reading from the Book of Revelation. (2:8-11)**

<sup>8</sup>“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. <sup>9</sup>I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. <sup>10</sup>Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test

you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

<sup>11</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**A Psalm. (103:8-14) Read responsively by whole verse.**

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

<sup>9</sup> **He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

<sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

<sup>11</sup> **For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

<sup>13</sup> **As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.**

<sup>14</sup> For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

**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.**

**The Gospel (Matthew 6:1-8)**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

<sup>1</sup> “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.

<sup>2</sup> “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. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

<sup>5</sup> “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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Deacon:           The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

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### Invitation to Holy Lent

Celebrant:

Dear People of God: from the earliest days of the Church, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord’s passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first, this season was observed by those who were preparing for baptism at Easter and by those who, having been excommunicated, were to be restored to the communion of the church. By keeping these days with care and attention Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and grow in faith and devotion to our Lord.

So, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer and fasting, by self-denial and acts of generosity and by reading and meditating on the word of God, let us keep a holy Lent.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling or sitting.

## Imposition of the Ashes

Celebrant:

Blessed are you, God of all creation. You are eternal, we are mortal, formed from the dust of the earth. As we receive these ashes, make them a sign for us of repentance and returning to you. Breathe into us again the breath of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Friends in Christ, I invite you to come and receive these ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

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Celebrant: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Repent and believe the Gospel of Christ.

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### Litany

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth,  
**have mercy on us.**

Incarnate Word, redeemer of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

Abiding Spirit, giver of light and life,  
**have mercy on us.**

For turning away from your presence, for disobeying your word and commandments,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For trusting in our own strength instead of yours, for betraying your trust and the trust of others,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For resisting your grace and refusing your blessings, for holding back from proclaiming our faith in you,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For damaging this earth and exploiting its creatures, for neglecting and wasting the gifts you have given us,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For failing to forgive as we have been forgiven, for judging others and bearing grudges,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For skimping on our commitments and relationships, for failing in hospitality,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For tolerating oppression, injustice, and wrong, for keeping silent when we should have spoken up,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For turning away when others have offered us love, for closing our hearts when others have needed compassion,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For all we have done unkindly, unjustly and dishonestly, for our careless speech and hurtful words,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

**Most merciful God, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant:

With our hearts turned to God in repentance, with the knowledge of our sins laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ, in the name of the living God, your sins are forgiven. Receive God's mercy, take hold of your forgiveness, and, in the power of the Holy Spirit. walk in the light of Christ. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Celebrant: Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

People: **We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*(Greet one another in the name of our Lord)*

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## **Offertory**

*The offering is brought forward in silence.*

## **The Eucharist**

Is the Father with us?

**He is.**

Is Christ among us?

**He is.**

Is the Spirit here?

**He is.**

This is our God.

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

We are his people.

**We are redeemed.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right and our delight to give you thanks and praise, great Father, living God, supreme over the world, Creator, Provider, Savior, Redeemer, and Giver. From a wandering nomad you created your family; for a burdened people you raised up a leader; for a confused nation you chose a king; for a rebellious crowd you sent your prophets. In these last days you have sent us your Son, your perfect image, bringing your kingdom, revealing your will, dying, rising, reigning, and remaking your people for yourself. Through him you have poured out your Holy Spirit, filling us with light and life.

Therefore with angels, archangels, faithful ancestors, and all in heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and singing:

## **Sanctus**

Almighty God, owner of all things, we thank you for giving up your only Son to die on the cross for us who owe you everything. Pour your refreshing Spirit on us as we remember him in the way he commanded, through these gifts of your creation. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son.

On the same night that he was betrayed he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Amen. His body was broken for us.**

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave thanks; he gave it to them, saying, “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. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

**Amen. His blood was shed for us.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Heavenly Father, hear us as we celebrate this covenant with joy and await the coming of our brother, Jesus Christ. He died in our place, making a full atonement for the sins of the whole world, the perfect sacrifice, once and for all. You accepted his offering by raising him from death, and granting him great honor at your right hand on high.

**Amen, Jesus is Lord.**

This is the feast of victory.

**The lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**

As our Savior, Jesus, taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Christ is alive forever.

**We are because he is.**

We are one body.

**We share one bread.**

Draw near with faith.

**Christ is the host and we are his guests.**

*(We have gluten-wheat-yeast-dairy-egg-soy-nut-and-corn free communion wafers available for anyone who needs it. Please let the Clergy serving communion know if you would prefer to receive these.)*

*(All baptized Christians are welcome to take communion. The ushers will direct the people down the center aisle. After receiving bread, please take a cup from the tray, then dispose of your cup in the basket.)*

## Communion Hymns

### Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**God of our pilgrimage, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of the life of your Kingdom. You have fed us indeed with the bread of heaven. Refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### The Blessing

Celebrant: All our problems

**People: We send to the cross of Christ.**

Celebrant: All our difficulties

**People: We send to the cross of Christ.**

Celebrant: All the devil's works

**People: We send to the cross of Christ.**

Celebrant: All our hopes

**People: We set on the risen Christ.**

God of life and death, from the fullness of yourself you have created all that is; through the power of your love you call us towards you; in the giving of your Son our salvation has been wrought. Our flowering and our passing, all the seasons of the vine, belong to you; bless us now in all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn

### Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**