



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024  
ASH WEDNESDAY

Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #149 - Eternal Lord of love*

*Unison or harmony*

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

Words: Thomas H. Cain (b. 1931)  
Music: *Old 124th*, melody *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551;  
harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

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## The Word of God

*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.* [You may be seated]

### A reading from the book of Isaiah (58:1 – 12),

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,

a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

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

## **Psalm 103:8 - 14**

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.

## **A reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians (5:20b-6:10),**

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, labors, 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 honor and dishonor, 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.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God

**Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #144 - Lord Jesus, Sun of Righteousness (verses 1-3)***

1 Lord Je - sus, Sun of Right - eous - ness, shine  
 2 Give guid - ance to our wan - dering ways, for -  
 3 Lord, grant that we in pen - i - tence may

1 in our hearts, we pray; dis - pel the gloom that  
 2 give us, Lord, our sin; re - store us by your  
 3 of - fer you our praise, and through your sav - ing

1 shades our minds and be to us as day.  
 2 lov - ing care to peace and joy with - in.  
 3 sac - ri - fice re - ceive your gift of grace.

Words: Latin; tr. Anne K. LeCroy (b. 1930). Copyright © 1982, Anne LeCroy. Music: *Cornhill*, Harold Darke (1888-1976), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press.

**[Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel]**

*Priest*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (6:1 – 6, 16 - 21)

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

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing 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."

*Reader*            The Gospel of the Lord  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

### **Homily by The Rev. Stephen C. Day**

*The Celebrant continues with an invitation to a holy Lent* **[Please stand, as you are able]**

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.* **[Please sit or kneel]**

*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*

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

*The following Psalm is then said*

### **Psalm 51**

- 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 or sitting*

***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 Bishop, if present, or the Priest, 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 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 stand. The Celebrant says to the people [Please stand, as you are able]*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

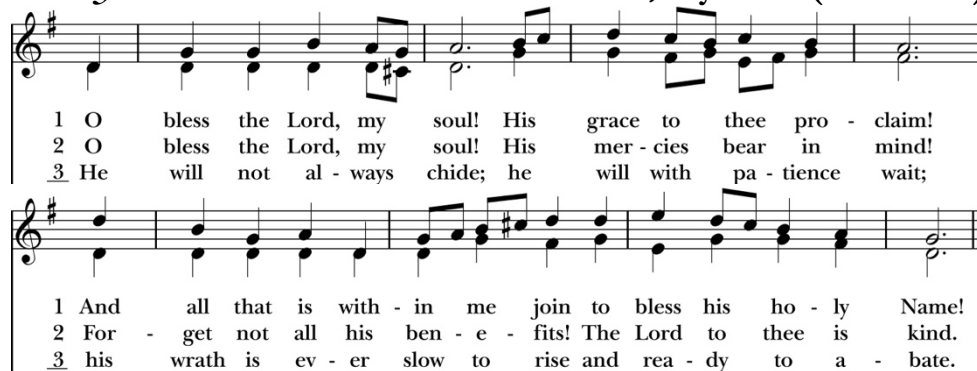
*People            And also with you.*

### **Offertory Sentences**

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His Name; bring offerings and come into His courts.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Psalm 96:8, Ephesians 5:2*

## Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #411 - O bless the Lord, my soul! (verses 1-3)*

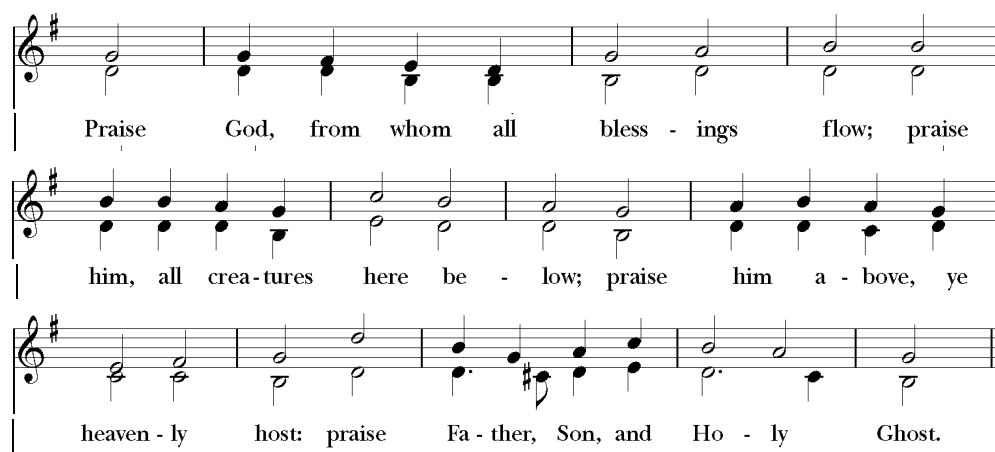


1 O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!  
 2 O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!  
 3 He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;

1 And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!  
 2 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.  
 3 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 103. Music: *St. Thomas (Williams)*, melody Aaron Williams (1731-1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

## Anthem



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

## LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED

*Collect for Communion under Special Circumstances*

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us,

*Officiant and People*

***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.***

*Celebrant then says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

***All are welcome at the Lord's Table at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.***

*Communion in one kind (the bread or the wine) is just as valid as communion in both kinds.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing instead of receiving communion, simply come forward with your arms crossed.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

*Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, 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.*

### **Announcements**

#### **Blessing**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

### **Churchy Term of the Day - Ash Wednesday**

The first of the forty days of Lent, named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of worshipers at Ash Wednesday services. The ashes are a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality, and may be imposed with the sign of the cross. Ash Wednesday is observed as a fast in the church year of the Episcopal Church. The Ash Wednesday service is one of the Proper Liturgies for Special Days in the BCP (p. 264). Imposition of ashes at the Ash Wednesday service is optional.

### **BONUS Churchy Term of the Day - Reservation of the Sacrament**

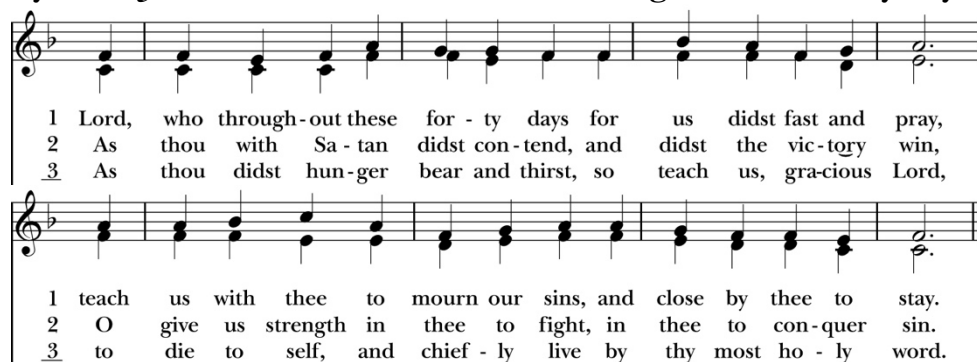
Following ancient custom, the BCP provides that the consecrated bread and wine may be reserved for the communion of the sick or others who for “weighty cause” could not be present at the celebration or for administration of communion by a deacon to a congregation when a priest is unavailable (pp. 408–409). The sacrament may also be reserved on Maundy Thursday for communion on Good Friday. It is customary to keep the consecrated elements in a tabernacle or an aumbry or covered with a veil on a table or altar. A lamp or candle burns nearby to announce the presence of the reserved sacrament. This light is known as a sanctuary lamp if the reservation is near the altar. Although not provided for by the BCP, the reserved sacrament is used for benediction and private devotions in some parishes with an Anglo-catholic piety.

### **EXTRA BONUS Churchy Term of the Day - “Deacon’s Mass”**

A communion service led by a deacon. After the liturgy of the word, the deacon administers communion to a congregation from the reserved sacrament. The service became popular in the Episcopal Church in the 1950s and 1960s. Because the 1928 BCP did not provide for this service, many deacons made up their own liturgies. The 1979 BCP is the first Prayer Book to provide for such a service. An outline for the service is included in the Additional Directions for the Celebration of the Eucharist (BCP, p. 408). The directions make clear that the service is not one of the ordinary liturgies of the church, since its use is limited to occasions “when the services of a priest cannot be obtained.” Other preferred titles, suggested by liturgical scholar Howard E. Galley, are “Liturgy of the Presanctified” and “Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion.” The service may be used only when a priest is unavailable and when the bishop authorizes it. Even if a priest is unavailable, the authorization is entirely in the bishop’s discretion. Many Episcopal bishops forbid the service or restrict its use to emergencies because it misrepresents the shape of the church, the eucharist, and the ordained ministry.

Adapted from Don S. Armentrout’s *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians* Church Publishing Inc., 2000.

## Recessional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #142* - Lord, who throughout these forty days (verses 1-3)



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,  
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,  
3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,

1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.  
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.  
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898). Music: *St. Flavian*, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt, and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901).

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*Celebrant* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*People* *Thanks be to God.*



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*Photo of Saint Stephen's in early 1950s provided by Alice Hannahs, widow of the Reverend John Hannahs first priest at Saint Stephen's*

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Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana

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